

FIVE HUNDRED

A. Bingham Allen.

POINTS

703

O F

F. ALCOTT PRATT

HUSBANDRY:

DIRECTING

What Corn, Grass, &c. is proper to be sown; what Trees to be planted; how Land is to be improved: With whatever is fit to be done for the Benefit of the FARMER in every Month of the YEAR.

By *THOMAS TUSSE*R, Esq;

To which are added,

Notes and Observations explaining many obsolete TERMS used therein, and what is agreeable to the present Practice in several Counties of this Kingdom.

A WORK very necessary and useful for Gentlemen, as well as Occupiers of LAND, whether Wood-Ground or Tillage and Pasture.

L O N D O N:

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TUSSER REDIVIVUS.

JANUARY.

1 **W**hen Christmas is ended bid feasting adue,
go plaie the good husband, thy stocke
to renue:

Be mindful of rearing, in hope of a gaine,
dame profit shall giue thee, reward for thy paine.

The Author liv'd the greatest part of his time in *Norfolk*,
Suffolk, and *Essex*; in the two former there is much Cattell
reared at present, the latter is much altered from what they
did formerly, because of the Profit they make by suckling
Calves, and housing of Lambs, and the taking in of Com-
mons.

2 Who both by his Calfe, and his Lambe wil be known,
may wel kil a neat, and a sheepe of his own:
And he that can reare up a pig in his house,
hath cheaper his bakon, and sweeter his fouse.

He advises the Farmer to kill as good as he sells, perhaps to
credit him when his Chapmen come to buy; else Experience
tells us, if he eats not his old Ewes and such ordinary Meat
at home, he will get but little for them of the Butcher; for

best is best cheap only when 'tis bought. So as to his rearing of a Pig, if it be in a poor Man's House, or one who buys all with the Penny, his Soufe may be sweet, but his Bacon shall be dear.

- 3 Who eateth his veale, pig and lambe being froth,
shal twise in a weeke, go to bed without broth:
Unskilful that passe not, but sel away sel,
shal neuer haue plentie, where euer they dwel.

Broath is still us'd in some Farm Houses for Supper Meat, and roast Meat look'd upon as very ill Husbandry. But if the Farmer hath latter Pigs, Calves, or Lambs, which the longer they are kept will be the worse, he may eat them or sell them whilst they are good, and for want of Broth make shift with better Liquor.

- 4 Be greedie in spending, and careles to save,
and shortly be needie, and ready to craue:
Be wilful to kil, and unskilful to store,
and look for no foizon, I tel thee before.

This holds good still: *foyzon* is Winter Food.

- 5 Laie dirt upon heaps, faire yard to be seene,
if frost wil abide it, to field with it cleane,
In Winter a fallow, some loue to bestow,
where pease for the pot, they intend for to sowe.

Pease boyling or not boyling is one of the Farmers occult Qualities, but fresh, and next to it, well duned Grounds are observed to produce the best Boylers, perhaps because they retain most moisture.

- 6 In making or mending, as needeth thy ditch,
get set to quicke set it, learne cunningly which,
In hedging (where claie is) get stake as ye know:
of popler and willow, for fuel to grow.

By Experience Garden Quicksets are found to be the best, they as well as others ought to be set in new thrown up Earth, and weeded the first ~~two~~ Years, which is done with much

Ease:

Ease: The Gardens are preferr'd because they are all of an Age. Poplar and Willow Stakes will grow in a Clay or any kind Mold, but they assuredly dye as soon as they touch the Gravel, perhaps it is too dry to afford them Nourishment.

7 Leauē killing of conie, let doe go to bucke,
and vermine thy burrow, for feare of ill lucke:
Feed doue (no more killing) old doue-house repare,
saue doue-doong for hopyard, when house ye make
faire.

The common time of ending their Slaught (or Slaughter as the Warreners term it) is *Candlemas*, altho' they often leave off sooner, as in Case of a mild Winter; the Flesh is red and unfavory after *Christmas*. The use of Pigeons Dung is now better known than in our Author's time. As to cleaning a Pigeon House, some with very good Reason defer the taking away the Heaps of Dung that lye before the Pigeon Holes, because they are a good Defensative against the ensuing Cold, and preserve the Eggs, and Pigeons of the first Brood.

8 Dig Garden, stroy mallow, now may ye at ease,
and set (as a daintie) thy runcial pease:
Go cut and set roses, choose aptly the plot,
the roots of the yongest, are best to be got.

Since the Author's time there are many better sorts of Pease to be set at this time, but the most forward Pea is the Rogue, they are pick'd from the Hasting and Hot-spur, and are of late had in great Reputation.

9 In time go and bargaine, least worser ye shal,
for fewel for making, for carriage and al:
To buie at the stub, is the best for the buier,
more timely prouision, the cheaper is fire.

This happens according to the Chapman's want of Money.

10 Some burneth a load at a time in his hal,
some neuer leauē burning, til burnt they haue al:
Some making of hauocke, without any wit,
make many poor soules, without fire to sit.

It seems the Servants Fire was biggest then, and so it will be still if care be not taken; however if they have none but what they must cleave the Moment they want it, it will somewhat lessen the Wast.

- 11 If frost do continue, this lesson doth wel,
for comfort of cattel, the fewel to fel:
From euerie tree, the superfluous bowes,
now prune for thy neat, thereupon to go browse,
12 In pruning and trimming, al maner of trees,
reserve to ech cattel, their properlie fees:
If snowe do continue, sheepe hardly that fare,
craue Mistle and Iuie, for them for to spare.

Since the use of Turneps Cattle need not be hard put to it, in snowy Weather as formerly, but still they are in hard Frosts, and then nothing agrees so well with them as Browse; the like of Deer. Conies will grow fat upon Browse if they have but enough.

- 13 Now lop for thy fewel, old pollenger grown,
that hinder the corne, or the grasse to be mown:
In lopping and felling, saue edder and stake,
thine hedges as needeth, to mend or to make.

Edder is such fence Wood as is commonly put upon the top of Fences, and binds or interweaves each other: Stakes and their use need no Explanation.

- 14 In lopping old Jocham, for feare of mishap,
one bough staie unlopped, to cherish the sap:
The second yeer after, then boldly yee may,
for dripping his fellows, that bough cut awaie.

This is more proper in Underwood than Pollards, at least more in use at present; few Pollards perish for want of it, but Runt-wood will.

- 15 Lop popler and fallow, elme, maple and prie,
wel saued from cattel, til Summer to lie:

So

So far as in lopping, their tops ye do fling,
so far without planting, yoong copise wil spring.

In Gauls of Underwood this may be done with some Advantage (Gauls are void Spaces in Coppices which serve for nothing but to entice the Cattel into it, to its great Damage) and then the best way is to let your Loppings lye some time before they are fetch'd away; but there are much better ways than this, particularly by sowing Acorns on the Grasse, which will take root and turn to better Account.

16 Such fewel as standing, a late ye haue bought,
now sel it and make it, and do as ye ought:
Give charge to the hewers (that many thing mars)
to hew out for crotches, for poles and for spars.

It is not enough to give the Hewers in charge that they cast out every thing to the best Advantage, but they must also be watch'd and encourag'd, by giving a Reward for every hundred of Stakes, bundle of Prick-wood, or score for Poles, &c.

17 If hopyard or orchard, ye mind for to haue,
for hop poles and crotches, in lopping go faue:
Which husbandly faued, may serve at a push,
and stop by so hauing, two gaps with a bush.

It is certain that having a thing at hand when wanted, and seeking it or borrowing it, is in a greater Proportion than as one to two.

18 From Christmas, til May be wel entered in,
some cattel wax faint, and looke poorely and thin,
And cheefelie when prime grasse, at first doth appeere,
then most is the danger of al the whole yeere.

Prime Grasse appears commonly in woody moist Grounds, on Hedge Banks, and is so called from its earliness; when Cattle have tasted this they begin to loath their dry Food. It is often sprung before *Candlemas*, for the Spring may properly be said to begin from the Sun's returning from the Tropick of *Capricorn*.

- 19 Take vergis and heat it, a pint for a cow,
 bay salt a handfull, to rub tooing ye wot how:
 That done with the salt, let hir drink of the rest,
 this many times raifeth, the feeble up best.

Verjuice is well known to be the Juice of Crabs, but it is not so much taken notice of, that for Strength and Flavour it comes little short, if not exceeds Limejuice.

- 20 Poore bullocke with browfing, and naughtily fed,
 scarce feedeth, hir teeth be so loose in hir hed:
 Then slice ye the taile, where ye feele it so soft,
 with foot and with garlike, bound to it aloft.

This Remedy still is in Practice, how reasonable let the Learned discuss; however, by Experience we see, that the first Indication of corrupt Blood is from the staring Hairs on the Tail near the Rump. Some instead of Soot and Garlick put a Dock Root, or the Root of Bears Foot, which they call a Gargat Root, others flay the Dewlaps to the very Shoulders.

- 21 By brembles and bushes, in pasture too full,
 poore sheepe be in danger, and looseth their wooll,
 Now therefore thine ewe, upon lamming so neere,
 desireth in pasture, that all may be cleere.

Large Ant-Hills is much the best shelter for Ewes and Lambs; a Broom Close is also good; but the worst, to be sure, is Bushes, for as they grow weak their Wool is drier, and more apt to flake of.

- 22 Leave grubbing or pulling, of bushes (my sonne)
 til timelie thy fences, require to be done:
 Then take of the best, for to furnish thy turne,
 and home with the rest, for the fire to burne.

Good fence Wood in a Farm, and enough, is half a Crop.

- 23 In euerie greene, if the fense be not thine,
 now stub up the bushes, the grasse to be fine:

Least

Least neighbor do dailie, so hacke them belive,
that neither thy bushes, nor pasture can thrive.

This is understood of Hedge Greens; that is, in every arable Close, there is a space next the Hedge, of a Rod or more in breadth, left for Pasture, this ought to be kept clean from Bushes; which if it is not, it is natural to the next Neighbour, when he mends his Hedge, to cut them to his Advantage—Belive signifies in the Night, which is more put in for Rhime sake that the Neighbour should be suppos'd to work in the Night.

24 In ridding of pasture, with turfes that lie by,
fil euerie hole up, as close as a die:
The labour is little, the profit is gay,
what euer the loitering labourers say.

This is when you rid it of Bushes or Ant Hills, but when you rid Ant Hills it is best to throw out a pretty deal of Earth, and return your Turf so as that it may lye beneath the Surface, as the bottom of a Dish to the brims, for then it will gather the Water, and kill the remains of the Ants.

25 The sticks and the stones, go and gather up cleene,
for hurting of sieth, or for harming of greene:
For fear of Hew Prowler, get home with the rest,
when frost is at hardest, then carriage is best.

This I take to be meant still of Hedge Greens, which after fencing have a pretty deal of dry Wood or Stubbings left on them, which the Farmer ought to carry home for his use. *Hugh Prowler* is our Author's Name for a Night-walker, for whom he would have nothing left; however, we may suppose they suffer'd the Poor to glean Chips, and small bits after the Cart.—There are a sort of Wheels call'd dredge Wheels, now in use, with the help of which a Load may be carried through a Meadow, altho' it be not a Frost.—If the Land be stony, the Plough is apt to turn Stones upon the Green, which must be pick'd off again.

26 Yong broome or good pasture, thy ewes doe require,
warm barth and in safety, their lambs do desire:
Looke often wel to them, for foxes and dogs,
for pits and brambles, for vermin and hogs.

A Barth is commonly a place near the Farm House well sheltered, where the Ewes and Lambs are brought in for warmth, and the Farmers Eye against these six Enemies.

27 More daintie the lambe, more worth to be sold,
the sooner the better, for ewe that is old :
But if ye do mind, to have milke of the dame,
til May do not seuer, the lambe fro the same.

By dainty I take it is here meant likely or thriving, such a one as will soon require more Milk than his old Dam can afford him, and therefore most proper for the Knife whilst he is good, but since the housing of Lambs this Rule may be varied. — There is little Ewe Milk used in *England*, but where they do, it is proper to keep the Lamb so long by the Dam's side until she has Plenty of Food ; to be sure she will give all she can down to her Lamb, and when her Food is plentiful she must do the same to the Pail.

28 Ewes yeerely by twinning, rich maisters do make,
the lambe of such twinners, for breeders go take:
For twinlings be twiggers, increase for to bring,
though some for their twigging, *Peccavi* may sing.

In some part of *Norfolk* and *Lincolnshire* they will keep none but Twinlins, but then it is in rich Land, as *Mersbland* and *Holland* — That they may not sing *peccavi* they put them not to Ram until a Fortnight after *Michaelmas*, so that they fall about the beginning of *April* or latter end of *March*.

29 Calves likely that come, between Christmas and
Lent,
take hufwife to reare, or else after repent :
Of such as do fal, between change and the prime,
no rearing but sel, or go kil them in time.

Forward Calves after *Christmas*, are to be sure the best to rear, as having a long Summer before them. The Prime is the first three Days after the New Moon or Change, but for what reason those who come within that time must be killed, I leave to the more experienc'd ; 'tis true, those Days are most subject to Rain.

30 House calfe and go suckle it, twise in a day,
and after a while, set it water and hay:
Stake ragged to rub on, no such as wil bend,
then weane it wel tended, at fiftie daies end.

At present we rarely wean under twelve Weeks, but in
Lancashire such as are design'd for Bulls suck much longer.

31 The senior weaned, his yonger shal teach,
how both to drink water, and hay for to reach:
More stroken and made of, when ought it doth aile,
more gentle ye make it, for yoke or the paile.

They must be taught to eat Hay before they are wean'd, which
that Calf that takes to first may be said to teach the other; the
Hay is given them stuck in cleft Sticks, and must be of the
finest. When they ail any thing they are not so skittish as
when well, and therefore will endure and be us'd to stroaking
better than at any other time, or perhaps it gives them some
ease, which they remember.

32 Geld bul calfe and ram lamb, as soon as they fal,
for therein is lightly no danger at all:
Some spareth the tone, for to pleasure the eie,
to haue him shew greater, when butchers shal bie.

For rearing, if the Calf be a Fortnight old and the Lamb
five Days it will do as well.

33 Sowes ready to farrow this time of the yeere,
are for to be made of, and counted full deere:
For now is the losse, of the far of the sow,
more greater than the losse, of two calves of thy
cow.

Because the Pig farrowed now will be Pork at *Michaelmas*,
or Bacon at *Christmas* next, and Wash becomes plentiful by
the time they are weaned.

34 Of one sow together, reare few above five,
and those of the fairest, and likeliest to thrive:

Ungelt of the best, keepe a couple for store,
one bore pig and sow pig, that sucketh before.

It is likely that the strongest Pigs get foremost, and the foremost teats are generally suck'd lankest, and consequently give most Milk.

35 Who hath a desire, to haue store very large,
at Whitfontide, let him giue hufwife a charge,
To reare of a sow at once, only but three,
and one of them also, a bore for to be.

To be sure they will grow apace, and the Sows will not go to Boar until the Spring following, so that they will haue time for growing too.

36 Geld under the dam, within fortnight at least,
and saue both thy mony, and life of the beast,
Geld later with gelders, as many one do,
and looke of a dosen, to geld away two.

Gelding is still done under the Dam, but spading is more frequently deferred, and that with Success enough.

37 Thy colts for the saddle, geld yong to be light,
for cart do not so, if thou judgest aright:
Nor geld not, but when they are lusty and fat,
for there is a point, to be learned in that.

This agrees with our present Practice; the best way of gelding Colts is with an actual Cautey.

38 Geld fillies (but tits) yer a nine daies of age,
they die else of gelding, (or gelders do rage:)
Yong fillies so likely, of bulke and of bone,
keepe such to be breeders, let gelding alone.

It is a difficult Work, and requires a skilful Hand, but may be deferr'd longer; it is not much in use because of the many Disasters attending it.

39 For gaining a trifle, sel ouer thy store,
what ioy to acquaintance, what pleasureth more;

The

The larger of body, the better for breed,
more forward of growing, more better they speed.

It is a creditable and joyful Sight to see a fair large Breed on a Farm, but then it ought to be proportional to what the Farm will carry off, not *Lincolnshire* Sheep on *Banstead Downs*, or *Lancashire* Cattle in *Northumberland*.

40 Good milchow wel fed, that is faire and sound,
is yeerely for profit, as good as a pound :
And yet by the yeere, I haue proued yer now,
as good to the puffle, is a sow as a cow.

This is to be understood of Cows kept in good Pasture, not the poor Man's Cow which runs upon the Common, which besides his loss of Time after, seldom pays her wintering.—A Sow may be as profitable as a Cow, provided her Pigs are sold for Roasters, and have a good Market; neither must their Food be bought by the Penny, but where Sow and Cow are kept together. For——

41 Keepe one and keepe both, with as little a cost,
then al shal be saued, and nothing be lost ;
Both hauing together, what profit is caught,
good huswives (I warrant ye) need not be taught.

42 For lambe, pig and calfe, and for other the like,
tithe so as thy cattel, the Lord do not strike :
Or if ye deale guilefully, parson wil dreue,
and so to your selfe, a worse turn ye may geue.

The Author was for some time a tithing Man, and it is likely he found many Farmers grudge at so considerable an outlet of their Crop, for it is indeed little less than a Sixth; but if they are convinc'd it is the Owner of the Land, and not they that pay it, they may be more easy.

43 Thy garden plot lately, wel trenched and muckt,
would now be twifallowed, the mallowes out pluckt :
Wel clenfed and purged, of root and of stone,
that fault therein afterward, found may be none.

In trenching bury no Mallow, Nettle-dock, or Briony Roots.

44 Remember thy hopyard, if season be drie,
now dig it and weed it, and so let it lie:
More fennie the laier, the better his lust,
more apt to beare hops, when it crumbles like dust.

Hops love their Head warm and Feet moist, however not
too moist, but a pure light rich Mould is best.

45 To arbor begun, and quicke settet about,
no powling nor wadling, til set be far out:
For rotten and aged, may stand for a shew,
but hold to their tackling, there do but a few.

Quicksettet Arbors are now out of use, as agreeing very ill
with the Ladies Muslins; howsoever it holds in *Esfalliers*, and
all other Pole-work, not to pole or wattle until there is a
growth to menage: Wattles are Wood slit, such as in some
Places Gates are made of; in their room we more neatly at
present use slit Deal.

46 In January husband, that poucheth the grotes,
wil breake up his lay, or be sowing of otes:
Otes sowne in January, laie by the wheat,
in May by the haie, for the cattel to eat.

This is a celebrated Stanza, but, I doubt, seldom practic'd,
yet perhaps both may be done to Advantage; for such early
sown Oats it is likely may be clearer of Weeds; and if I buy
my Hay in *May*, that is, before my Chapman knows what
Quantity he shall have, he is rul'd by his Necessity for some
ready Mony in Hand.

47 Let servant be ready with mattocke in hand,
to stub out the bushes that noieth the land:
And cumbersome roots, so annoying the plough,
turne upward their arses, with sorrow inough.

This is understood as the former, of breaking of Lay,
which, if troubled with Roots or Gammock, a Servant is ve-
ry well bestowed to be ready to clear the Plough before all
Flies.

48 Who breaketh up timely, his fallow or lay,
 sets forward his husbandry many a way :
 This trimly wel ended, doth forwardly bring,
 not only thy tillage, but al other thing.

If it be Grasse, break it up as soon as you have mow'd it,
 or fed it down ; then instead of your Aftermath, or latter feed,
 you will have a Crop of Corn the next Year.

49 Though lay land ye break up, when Christmas is
 for sowing of barley, or otes thereupon : [gon
 Yet haste not to fallow, til March be begun,
 least afterward wishing, it had bin undon.

Barley is now very rarely, if at all, sown on lay Land, the
 Fallow he speaks of I take to be the second ploughing for Bar-
 ley, which every one must be guided in, according to his Cir-
 cumstance of Team and Quantity of Land.

50 Such land as ye breake up, for barley to sow,
 two earths at the least, yer ye sow it bestow :
 If land be thereafter, set oving apart,
 and follow this lesson, to comfort thine hart.

Barley Ground ought to be as fine as an Ash-heap, as the
 Country People say, and if you find it rich enough for a Crop
 of Barley never Oat it, for that may come after.

51 Some breaking up lay, soweth otes to begin,
 to sucke out the moisture, so sower therein :
 Yet otes with hir sucking, a peeler is found,
 both ill to the maister, and worse to some ground.

Where the Mould is shallow, and the Ground dry, it is not
 good to begin with Oats, but where the Ground is over rich
 it fines and sweetens it. It is a common thing in the lile
 of Ely, and other Parts where the Ground is over-rank and
 course in Grasse, to take off a Crop of Oats and sometimes
 two, and then lay it down again, and the Ground will be much
 the finer, and the Grasse sweeter.

52 Land arable, driuen or worn to the prooffe,
it craueth some rest, for thy profits behoofe:
With otes ye may sow it, the sooner to grasse,
more soone to be pasture, to bring it to passe.

If Ground could be worn quite out of Heart, a Crop may
as well be expected from a Stone; but when it runs to no-
thing but Carlak or wild Oats, or if clean, will not afford
three times your Seed, it is then worn to the Proof, and does
require rest, folding, or dunging,



FEBRUARY.

W Ho laieth on doong, yer he laieth on
 plow,
 such husbandry useth, as thrift doth allow
 One month yer ye spred it, so still let it stand,
 yer never to plow it, ye take it in hand.

It is not usual, at present, to let the Dung heaps lye a Month, or any longer Time upon the Ground before it is spread than Conveniency and Opportunity requires; it is also proper, if the Dung-heaps have stood any time, to take some of the Earth on which they have stood, and spread it abroad as Dung; and when all that is done, when your Crop comes up, you may easily see where they have been, they will so ranken the Ground. So that I take it, our Author here means a Field Dunghil, which indeed ought to stand some time; but then this is not the proper Season to make them, at least as Husbandry is now practis'd.

2 Place doong heap alow, by the furrow along,
 where water al winter time, did it such wrong:
 So make ye the land, to be lusty and fat,
 and corne thereon sown, to be better for that.

The Furrow is the barrenest part, as being the lowest, if the Soil be shallow; and, to be sure the heat and moisture of the Dung-heaps will fatten it about equal to the rest. Let not your Dung however stand too long unspread, for fear some of its Fat sink out of your reach.

3 Go plow in the stubble, for now is the season,
 for sowing of fitches, of beanes and of peason;
 Sowe runcivals timely, and al that be gray,
 but sowe not the white, til S. Gregorie's day.

The Stubble had better have been ploughed in before, especially if it be Wheat or Rye Stubble. Beans delight in a stiff Mould

Mould, and are no Peelers, for they fetch their Nourishment deep. Pease, and Fitches or Tares, delight in a lighter Mould, and are great Destroyers of Weeds, and for that reason are also no Peelers. There is now a Winter Fitch or Tare much in request, which ripens much sooner than usual, because of its early sowing, and consequently remedies the greatest Inconvenience that attends this Pulse, which requires more time than Pease.— St. Gregory's Day is the 12th of March, before which white Pease are now frequently sown; but grey Pease always are sown soonest.

4 Sowe peason and beans, in the wane of the moone, who soweth them sooner, he soweth too soone:

That they with the planet, may rest and rise, and flourish with bearing, most plentiful wise.

Planetary Influence, especially that of the Moon, has commonly very much attributed to it in rural Affairs, perhaps sometimes too much; however, it must be granted the Moon is an excellent Clock, and if not the Cause of many surprizing Accidents, gives a just Indication of them, whereof this of Pease and Beans may be one Instance; for Pease and Beans sown, during the Increase, do run more to Hawm or Straw, and during the Declension more to Cod, according to the common Consent of Country Men. And I must own I have experienc'd it, but I will not aver it so as that it is not liable to Exceptions.

5 Friend harrow in time, by some maner of meanes, not only thy peason, but also thy beans:

Unharrowed die, being buried in clay, where harrowed flourish, as flowers in May.

If you don't, the Vermin, as Rooks, Pigeons, &c. are sure to have a good share of them; as they will (unless you watch them) if you do; for the Rook will watch them when they first begin to peep out of the Ground, and time it very exactly. The Pigeon always begins where he left of, and will (if he may) go over the whole; and make of it an entire Piece. Add to this, that in some measure both these are lawless Thieves, and therefore must be prevented by hiding and scaring only. The reason why unharrowed Beans set in Clay are apt to dye, is because the Wet fills the Holes and rots them.

- 6 Both peason and beans, sowe afore ye do plow,
the soëner ye harrow, the better for you :
White peason so good, for the purse and the pot,
let them be wel used, else wel do ye not.

This is called sowing under Furrow, being sowed on the Land just before the second ploughing, which if neatly done, lays them in rows just as if they had been drill'd : And here falls in another Reason why Pease and Beans ought to be soon harrowed in, because if they lye until they are swell'd the Horse-footing is apt to endamage them.

- 7 Haue eie vnto haruest, what euer ye sowe,
for feare of mischances, by ripening too slow :
Least corn be destroied, contrary to right,
by hogs or by cattel, by day or by night.

This particularly regards Field Land ; for in our Author's time Enclosures were not so frequent as now. There every body ought to consult his Neighbour's Interest as well as his own ; for it is hard, that for my Negligence, in not sowing timely, my Neighbours Swine and Cattle should lose the Benefit of the Field ; and that the Sheep should sweep it before it is half fed ; which, by the way, is no Benefit to the Sheep neither, as some Shepherds well observe. Take Care also not to sow Winter Corn upon such Headlands as your Neighbour must necessarily turn his Plough upon. Also in enclos'd Land be not behind your Neighbour, if possible, especially if the Fence be yours, lest you be forced to make up your Fence when the Ground is too dry, and you have no time to spare from your Haruest.

- 8 Good provender, labouring horses would have,
good haie and good plentie, plow oxen do craue :
To hale out thy mucke, and to plow out thy ground,
or else it may hinder thee many a pound.

There is nothing got by under-feeding working Cattle, nor is any thing got by over-feeding them : Their Food is to be proportioned to their kind of Work ; for Cart-Horses and Saddle-Horses may be very well look'd upon, as of two kinds, the swifter their Motion, the lighter and more spirituous ought

to be their Food. Oxen will work very well with good Hay; Cart-Horses require some Provender, and will do very well with Chaff and Oates; the Saddle-horse requires good Oats and Beans; and these deserve their Food no otherwise than as they pay for it with their Labour.

- 9 Who slacketh his tillage, a carter to be,
for groat got abroad, at home shal lose three:
And so by his doing he brings out of heart,
both land for the corne, and horse for the cart.

There were such poor People in our Author's time, it seems, and so there are now a sort of People who take a World of Pains, and do a great deal of Labour to be poor, wretchedly poor: What Necessity, and want of ready Money may plead for them, I cannot tell, but this is certain, that whosoever loses his Season for sowing must expect almost a Miracle in his Favour, or he must compute short of a Crop. Now the Question is, whether he had not as good rely upon Providence at first, before he provokes the Almighty.

- 10 Who abuseth his cattel, and starues them for meat,
by carting or plowing, his gaine is not great,
Where he that with labor, can use them aright,
hath gaine to his comfort, and cattel in plight.

Well fed Cattle will do their Work merrily, and thrive upon it; and it is evident that the Work of a Beast is equal at least to four times his Food. What a silly Covetousness is it then for Men to lose a third Part of the Work to save a fourth Part of the Provender, for more cannot well be pinch'd; besides the Danger of losing the Cattle. Yet such People as these there are in the World, and a great many too.

- 11 Buy quickset at market, new gathered and smal,
buy bushes and willow, to fense it withal:
Set willows to grow, in the stead of a stake,
for cattel in summer, a shadow to make.

In the last Month I recommended Garden Quicksets as the best; next to them are the smallest, and such as have the Roots fine threaded; by no means meddle with stubbed ones, for they are but part of old Bushes. The manner of raising Garden ones take as follows,

At

At *Michaelmas* get a Quantity of Hawes, and bury them in an indifferent Mould, not too rich, until the *April* following; then you shall find them lying in a black Lump, the most Part of them chitted or sprouted; separate them gently from each other, mixing them with some fine Mould; then sow them on a well prepared Bed of good Earth, sift over them Mould about a Finger's Breadth thick; weed them carefully the first Year, as often as you see any Weeds amongst them; the second Year, at least four times; and the third Year, at *Michaelmas*, you have as good a Crop as your Garden can produce. I advise that the Mould wherein they are sown be very good, not barenner than what they are to be transplanted in, as some teach; for every thing has its Infancy and time of Tendernefs, in which it must be tenderly used, and have fitting Nourishment. The jolly Lad that has been well fed in his Cradle, is certainly healthier, and able to endure more Hardship, than the puny Brat that was starv'd at Nurse. Willows are easily propagated from Willow Stakes: Lay their lower ends in Water three or four Days before you set them; let them into the Ground with an Iron Crow, but better with a Pump-auger, which loosens the Ground; a Warrener's Spade will do very well also: fasten them to a prop Stake, with wisps of Straw, and they will soon take root.

12 Sticke plentie of bowes, among runcival pease, to clamber thereon, and to branch at their ease: So doing more tender, and greater they wex, if peacocke and turkey, leave jobbing their bex.

Runcival Pease find now very little Entertainment in Gentlemens Gardens, they are however still to be seen in the Fields, as in *Berkshire* and *Wiltshire*; and are most commonly set two or three in a Hole: But in the Gardens, in the Room are got the Egg-pea, the Sugar-pea, Dutch-admirals, &c. and, with these, sticking very well agrees. A Peacock, altho' a lovely Fowl to look on, and every whit as good to eat, yet is a very ill-natur'd Bird, and particularly destructive to a Garden, as also to small Chickens, Turkey-Pouts, nay, his own kind. But seeing they are a Beauty to a House, no less ornamental than the Flowers of a Garden, and have some Skill in the Weather, &c. it may be worth while to be at some Pains to enjoy their Company, and make them less troublesome. If then you have a mind he shall not frequent your Garden, or any part of it, or any other Place, especially if it

be an enclosed one ; take your Opportunity, when you find him there, and with a little sharp Cur that will bark, teaze him bout as long as he can stand, at least till he takes his flight, and he will come no more there ; be sure to feed them well also. Turkeys, I suppose, may be served in the same manner ; but the former I have known perform'd, and I have kept them with very little Damage.

13 Now sowe and go harrow, were redge ye did draw,
the seed of the bremble, with kernel and haw :
Which couered ouerlie, soone to shut out,
go see it be ditched, and fensed about.

This I take it to be meant of a way of Quicksetting or fencing Enclosures out of the common Field they had in the Days of our Author ; they ploughed, or drew round the Ground they intended to inclose, a very large ridge, commonly a Rod wide, and sometimes much more ; this they sowed with Hips, or the Fruit of the Bramble, with Hazle-Nuts, Haws, and such like, to produce their Kind ; they carefully harrowed it, and weeded it for two Years, withal ditching it well about, and in a few Years time they had a pretty Coppice, and are what we now call Shaws, and in some places Springs. This is an excellent Way to improve bleak Grounds, and it is Pity it is not continued.

14 Where banks be amended, and newly up cast,
sowe mustard seed, after a shower be past :
Where plots full of nettels, be noisome to eie,
sowe thereupon hempseed, and nettels wil die.

This is most in Practice in Marshy Countries, as *Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, and Norfolk*, where the Borders of their Ditches, where the scowring is thrown out, produces Plenty of excellent Mustard-feed. It may be done in Uplands, as well especially where the Ground is in good Heart, and somewhat moist ; as on the Edges of small Brooks or Drains ; and will more than pay for the Labour. Where Nettles will grow, our Author observes that Hemp will grow, and kill the Nettle : He grounds his Observation, I suppose, upon the Doctrine of assimilated Juices, which the Ancients were very fond of, and perhaps not altogether without Reason ; altho' too much may be attributed to it, for Nettles and Hemp are near a Kin : And I have been told by one who had experienc'd it, indifferent good

good Linen may be made from Nettles, however Hemp makes better; and it somewhat reflects upon a great Part of the Farmers of this Nation, that about their Houses there are more Nettle and Dock-plots than Hemp-plots. When you sow Hemp, if your Land be rich, sow with a very plentiful Hand, your Hemp will be the finer, watch it for a Week from Pigeons.

15 The vines and the osiers, cut and go set,
if grape be unpleasant a better to get:
Feed swan, and go make hir up strongly a nest,
for feare of a floud, good and hie is the best.

Vines are now to be set out; they are best propagated by slips of the last Year, with a little left to them of the Year before; we set them here in *England* most commonly against Walls and Houses; but if you intend to plant them as in a Vineyard, let the Ranks range from *East* to *West*. Those that thrive best with us are the small black Grape, the white Muscadine, and the Parsley Grape. Osiers are also propagated from Slips, and thrive best in the Quincunx Order; they require a Ground continually moist, and are an excellent Crop. — Swans are a noble and useful Bird, their Food is the Weeds that grow at the Bottom of Ponds or Rivers: Now their Time of laying approaches, they are naturally impatient, for though they lay nine or ten Eggs, and sometimes more, they seldom stay the hatching of above five; a Trough with Oats, placed near their Nest, may keep them to their Nests better than ordinary, for ought I know; but that, as well as the building and ordering their Nests, I leave to the more Experienc'd.

16 Land medow that yeerely, is spared for hay,
now fense it and spare it, and doong it ye may:
Get moulecatcher cunningly, moule for to kil,
and harrow, and cast abroad euery hil.

Be sure then that your Dung be thoroughly rotten, and free from Stones; cast about now your Cow-dung and Moll-casts that lye on the Ground from your After-pasture-feed. There are many Country Fellows very dexterous at Mole catching: Some have a Way of setting them with a little Dog, very neatly and diverting, to look on; perhaps, a Gentleman's or a Farmer's Time may be as well spent to follow those Fellows, while they are catching for him, as to hunt after a Pack of Dogs, or a setting Dog for Partridges, for they are dexterous
at

at catching both Ways; and, without looking after, you may pay for Moles that never hurt you, and belong to their yearly Customers.

17 Where medow or pasture, to mow ye do lay,
let moule be dispatched, some manner of waie:
Then cast abroad moulhil, as flat as ye can,
for many commodities following than.

For killing the Mole there are several Ways, yet none, in my Opinion, come up to the common Trap, I mean the Ring-Trap, which is describ'd by Mr. *Worlidge*, in this manner, in his *Systema Agriculturæ*, p. 216, 217.

“ Take a small Board, of about three Inches and a Half
“ broad, and five Inches long; on the one Side thereof raise
“ two small round Hoops or Arches, one at each End, like
“ unto the end Hoops or Bails of a Carrier's Waggon, capa-
“ cious enough, that a Mole may easily pass through them;
“ in the Middle of the Board make a Hole, so big that a
Goose-Quill may pass through them: So is that Part finished.
— “ Then have in readiness a short Stick, about two
“ Inches and an Half long, about the Bigness that the End
“ thereof may just enter the Hole on the Middle of the Board:
“ Also you must cut a Hazle, or other Stick, about a Yard
“ or Yard and Half long, that being stuck into the Ground
“ may spring up, like unto the Springs they usually set for
“ Fowls, &c. then make a Link of Horse-hair vey strong,
“ that will easily slip, and fasten it to the End of the Stick
“ that springs. Also have in readiness four small hooked
“ Sticks; then go to the Furrow, or Passage of the Mole,
“ and after you have opened it fit in the little Board, with the
“ bended Hoops downwards, that the Mole when she passes
“ that Way may go directly thro' the two semicircular Hoops,
“ Before you fix the Board down, put the Hair String thro'
“ the Hole in the Middle of the Board, and place it round,
“ that it may answer to the two end Hoops, and with the
“ small Stick (gently put into the Hole to stop the Knot of
“ of the Hair Spring) place it in the Earth, in the Passage;
“ and by thrusting in the four crooked Sticks, fasten it, and
“ cover it with Earth; and then when the Mole passeth that
“ Way, either the one Way or the other, by displacing or
“ removing the small Stick that hangs perpendicularly down-
“ wards, the Knot passeth through the Hole, and the Spring
“ takes the Mole about the Neck. — Thus far Mr. *Wor-*
lidge;

ledge; since whom this useful Instrument has been improv'd, with some Variations; the best that I know of I had from an ingenious Farmer near *Luton* in *Bedfordshire*. Instead of the *Apparatus* of Board, Hoops, &c. he does all at once, only by cutting four or five Inches of Pipe, bored according to the fore-mentioned scantling of the Hoops, on one Side of which he cuts a large Notch, with a Saw directly answering to the Middle, where the Hole about the Bigness of a Goose-Quill is bored; this much better answers the Intention, than Hoops of Iron, Lead, or Wood; for the Mole, once in, presses much more naturally forward, and cannot but raise the Spring, whereas they will frequently baulk the Hoop Traps. Note also, That before they are used, they, or any other, ought to be buried under Ground for some time, that they may have no exotick Scents, which is a frequent Reason why these Traps fail. As to other Ways, *viz.* the Fall-Trap, &c. they are not comparable to this. The burying of a live She-Mole, in a Kettle or deep Pan, I have frequently heard of, but never met with the Man that could say he had experimented it. Fuming and drowning is sometimes practic'd with Success enough. In the Year 1702, I had a Mole in my Garden, which did me a great deal of Damage, and was too cunning for all we could do; at last I found his Lodging, which was under a Stone Wall, and soon drowned him, or made him fly thence, so that he troubled me no more.

18 If pasture by nature, is given to be wet,
then beare with the moulehil, though thicke it be
That lambe may sit on it, and so to sit drie, [set :
or else to lie by it, the warmer to lie.

If you have Plenty of Pasture, and no better Succour for your Lambs, it is possible this Advice may not be amiss, especially to such who do not care how little Pains they take. But if you pay Money, and that a pretty deal too, for your Ground, your best way, if it be wet, is to drain it, which may be done divers Ways, according to the Fall of the Ground, &c. But suppose there is no Fall, in a dry Season dig a large Trench, like a Saw-pit, in the lowermost Part of your Ground; dig it deep, until you come to Sand, Gravel, Stone, or Chalk; fill the Hole up again with Stones, over which lay Earth, and lastly your Turf; this invisible Drain will soon pay you for your Pains. This may be varied divers Ways; however, this is Specimen sufficient for the Ingenious.

19 Friend

19 Friend alway let this be, a part of thy care,
for shift of good pasture, lay pasture to spare :
So haue you good feeding, in bushes and lease,
and quickly safe finding, of cattel at ease.

A Lease is a Name used in some Countries, for a small Piece of Ground, of two or three Acres, and certainly nothing can be of more Profit to the Farmer than small Enclosures, by whose Means he can freshen his Pasture as he pleases, his Cattle shall thrive better, eat his Ground closer, and keep their Pasture the quieter. Add to this, that by this Means he may make his coarsest Meat go down, as well as the finest, and be as clean fed.

20 Where cattel may run about, roving at wil,
from pasture to pasture, poore bellie to fil :
There pasture and cattel, both hungry and bare,
for want of good husbandry, worser do fare.

This confirms the former, for Cattle (as all other Domestick Animals) will destroy where they have Plenty, and look fillily when they want ; both which they will certainly do, if they be left to carve for themselves. The Art is therefore to deal out so to them, that their Necessity may be supply'd without Waste ; and this, in this Case, is best done by small Enclosures.

21 Now thresh out thy barlie, for malt or for seed,
for breadcorne (if need be) to serue as shal need :
If worke for the thresher, ye mind for to haue,
of wheat and of mestlin, unthreshed go saue.

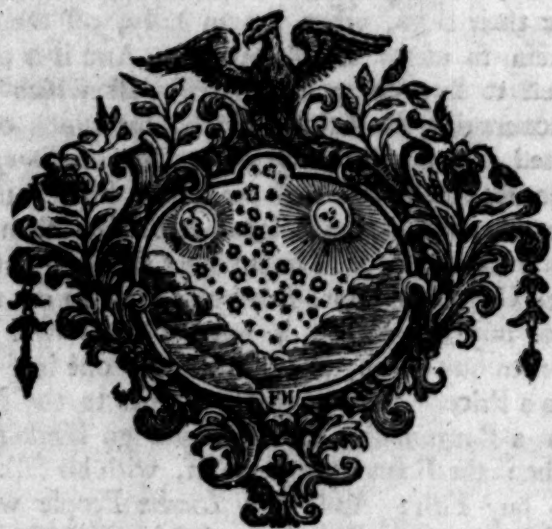
Malting is now in its Heighth, and Seed-time for Barley not far off, your Cattle call for Barley-Straw Fodder, and it is Time to think of raising *Lady-Day* Rent, for which nothing more proper at this Time than to thrash out your Barley ; for if Barley be a Drug (as they term it when the Price is low) it will surely be so after Seed-time is over. This Rule has had indeed a grand Exception of late, but a foreign Call is not to be relied on by the Farmer. Bread-Corn is required all the Year, and therefore very proper to be kept a little back, to employ the poor Thresher till mowing Time comes in, &c.—

22 Now timely for Lent stufte, thy mony disburfe,
the longer ye tarry, for profit the worfe :
If one peny vantage, be therein to faue,
of coastman or Flemming, be fure for to haue.]

This Article is very much unreguarded by Farmers at present, for fear, I suppose, of falling into Popery and Superstition; but lay that quite aside, and let us consult our Interest, Health, and Gratitude. I believe most ingenious Men may easily be brought to confess, that it is to be wish'd that People would (again at this Season) refrain from Flesh, and eat Fish more frequently than they do at present; especially in those Places near the Sea, where it is very plentiful. It is our National Interest then to breed up hardy Seamen, to employ a good Number of Shipwrights, and all Sorts of Handicrafts, to employ our Poor in spinning for Nets, &c. to take their Boys, when grown lusty, off their Hands, and put them to useful Employments. And it is our particular Interest to live cheap and frugal, all which may be done by encouraging the Fishing Trade, for which our Island seems adapted, better than any other Part of *Europe*. For it is not because the *Dutch* Seas are better stock'd than ours that there is more Fish brought into *Amsterdam* than *London*, *London* that is at least four Times bigger than it; but because there is more Call for it, more Boats and Men go out to catch, more People buy it, and it is not in the Power of one Sett of Men to buy it up, and throw away one half to keep the other to a Price. Every one there goes to the Market; I have seen a Burgomaster of *Amsterdam* go himself to the Market, when the Boats have come in, with his Silk Net in his Hand to buy Fish: And if in *London* People would be but at the Pains to go to *Billingsgate* for it, they would soon find another Sort of Provision there than there is now. And this noble Gift of God would be no longer look'd upon as a Scarcity, but a solid Support for the Poor, and a moderate Food for the Rich.

As to our Health, it is certain Flesh is more lustful and vicious at this Time than any other, and our Blood more prone to Fermentations, for which the Phlegm and Coolness of Fish is an Allay. In Gratitude the Farmer is oblig'd to eat the Fisherman's Commodity, which is Fish, because the Fisherman eats his Corn, and sometimes his Beef and Mutton.

But above all Gratitude, our Gratitude to Almighty God is due for so convenient a Situation as he hath bestowed on this Island; he hath surrounded us with Food and Plenty, and we ought neither out of Scrupulousness or Wantonness to despise his inestimable Blessings.



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M A R C H.

1 **W**Hite peason, both good for the pot and
 the purse, [worfe:
 by sowing too timely, proue often the
 Because they be tender, and hateth the cold,
 proue March yer ye sow them, for being too bold.

A good boiling Pea is certainly one of the profitablest Crops that belong to the Farmer, especially if they carry a good Colour: For Example, The Retailer now sells them for two Pence three Farthings the Quart, which is 2 *l.* 18 *s.* 8 *d.* the Quarter; so that the Retailer may afford the Farmer a good Price; and it is well known they require less ploughing, less Heart, and less Inning or Harveft-charge, than Wheat or Rye, and are threshed somewhat cheaper. But a sharp black Frost will in one Night set them all going, altho' they be pretty forward; for when they are young they have the most tender and juicy Stalk of any Corn, and the Hardness of the Ground is apt to nip their Pipes in two. In Gardens they talk of watering them as soon as possible, which softens the Earth, and it is very likely may save such as are not already crush'd; but in Field-Land the best Remedy is either sowing them again, or preparing your Ground for Barley.

2 Spare meadow at Gregory, marshes at Paske,
 for feare of drie summer, no longer time aske:
 Then hedge them and ditch them, bestowe thereon
 pence,
 corne, meadow and pasture, aske alway good sence.

It has been mentioned before, that St. *Gregory*, is the 12th. of *March*, *Pask* is *Easter*, which some Years falls within a Fortnight of it; so that our Author's meaning, I suppose, is that your Marsh Grounds be not far behind your Uplands; for altho' the Winter-water lie longest upon your Marshes, yet in the Summer, by reason of their Flatness, they are more sub-

ject to Drowth than declining Grounds, and Drowth has a worfe Effect upon them than on the other ; they are more apt to chap their Grasse, is ranker in Blade, and thinner at Bottom, than that of Uplands, and consequently more subject to wither and burn away. Fences are now much more frequent than in our Author's Time, and the Farmer's more convinc'd of the Benefit of them.

- 3 Of mastiues and mungrels, that many we see,
a number of thousands, too many there be :
Watch therefore in Lent, to thy sheepe go and looke,
for dogs will haue vittels, by hooke and by crooke.

It seems, in our Author's Time, *Lent* was still kept up ; his Book was printed in the Year 1590, being the 32d. Year of *Q. Elizabeth*. Now from Salt Fish, Furmity, Gruel, Wigs, Milk, Parsnips, Hasty-pudding, Pancakes, and twice a Week Eggs, the Farmer's Lenten Diet, there is produced very little Dog's Meat ; and a mort Lamb now and then was very apt to whet their Appetite to Mutton, which if they once take to, there is no Remedy but hanging : Some prescribe putting him into a Stable with two lusty old Rams, who will soon give him such a Remembrance of them, that he will for ever hate the Kind ; but that is to make 'em good for nothing, at best ; and if you chance to suffer them too long together, that the Rams have butted themselves out of Breath, it is ten to one but you find 'em both worried. The best Way is to feed them well at home, and bury your mort Lambs in the Dunghill.

- 4 In March at the furthest, drie season or wet,
hop roots so wel chosén, let skilful go set :
The goeler and yonger, the better I loue,
wel gutted and pared, the better they proue.

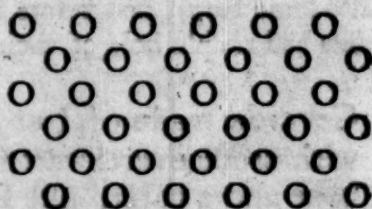
The goeler is the yellower, which are the best sets, old Roots being red, are not near so good. Well gutted I take to mean well taken off from the old Roots ; and paring is taken off all small fibrous Roots from your Sett.

- 5 Some laieth them crossewise, along in the ground,
as high as the knee, they do couer up round :
Some picke vp a sticke, in the mids of the same,
that little round hillocke, the better to frame.

6 Some

6 Some maketh a hollownes, halfe a foot deepe,
with fower sets in it, set slantwise asleepe :
One foote from another, in order to lie,
and thereon a hillocke, as round as a pie.

There are divers Ways of framing Hop-Hills, some are for the Chequer, others the Quincunx Form, which is, that the Hills of the second Line be against the vacant Spaces of the first; and this must follow, because the Sun has always a glade quite through, as may be seen by the annexed Scheme, where the O's are the Hills; the best Way of setting them out is by a Line with Knots at the Distance you design your Hills, and pricking Sticks in the Ground where you design them, the Distances vary according to the Nature of the Ground. But our Author proposes,



7 Fiue foot from another, ech hillocke would stand,
as straight as a leuelled line with the hand :
Let euery hillocke, be fower foot wide,
the better to come to, on euery side.

Mr. *Worlidge* proposes six Foot at least, and in a moist, deep, or rich Mould, nine. However, the Custom of the Country, and a well-grounded Experience, are the best Guides in these Cases; but be sure let not your Hills be over-poled, altho' some Hills may require twenty Poles, as well as others six or seven. Note, the Hills are no otherwise essential, than as they mark out the Place where the Hop lies, and direct you to the manuring and poling them, and avoid the Injuries of the Foot and Spade.

8 By willowes that groweth, thy hopyard without,
and also by hedges, thy meadowes about :
Good hop hath a pleasure, to clime and to spread,
if sunne may haue passage, to comfort hir head.

Willows are an excellent Fence for a Hop-Ground, for they break the Wind by their bending more than any other Tree, and by their wide branching they hinder the Sun the least of any

ny Tree ; they are also of quick Growth, and attract no mildews, as doth the Elm, the worst of all Trees, near a Hop-Ground. It may (for ought I know) be proper to plant some Hops in the *North* Fence of your Hop-Ground, but by no Means on the *East* or *South* Sides. Hops will do often times very well in the Fences of Meadows and Pastures ; but as I said before not under Elms, nor indeed any thing that overshades them much, it having a strange Propensity to the Sun, and follows that Planet in its windings. In *April*, 1704, I poll'd some Hops, and before I had set fifty Poles, some of the Plants had clasp'd hold of their Poles and made a half turn.

- 9 Get crow made of Iron, deepe hole for to make,
with crosse overthwart it, as sharpe as a stake :
A hone and a parer, like sole of a boot,
to pare away grasse, and to raise up the root.

It is the Crow, not the Cross, that our Author says must be as sharp as a Stake ; this Crow is to let in the Poles into the Ground, and an ordinary Crow may do without a cross Bar, if when you lift it out of the Ground you rest your Elbow on your Knee. The Hone is no other than a common Rubber, or Whetstone, to sharpen the Parer : It seems, in our Author's time, it was in fashion of the Sole of a Boot, but since there are of more commodious Shapes ; the best, in my Mind, are those triangular ones used by the Fen-men and Bankers.

- 10 In March is good graffing, the skilful do know,
so long as the wind, in the East do not blow,
From moone being changed, til past be the prime,
for graffing and cropping, is very good time.

For now in most Trees the Sap arises (as some call it) but more properly extends its self, and becomes more fluid. The Sap in Trees is to them as the Blood in Man, the most sovereign Balsam for its Wounds, and is the most ready at Hand, immediately flowing to them. The Prime, as I observed before, is the first three Days after the New Moon, in which Time, or at farthest, during the first Quarter, our Author confines his Graffing ; probably because the first three Days are usually attended with Rain, as has been confirm'd by undoubted Experience, whereby there is wherewithal to nourish the Plant ; and also, because during the Increase of the Moon, the Vicissitudes of Heat and Cold, are not so sudden as in the
Wane

Wane, the Moon succeeding the Sun after its setting, for a considerable Part of the Night ; and altho' robust sound Trees may make no great Difference between the one and the other, yet these Sick and Wounded are extreamly sensible of the least outward Impression, as a sick Person is of the Strength of small Beer, or a gouty Person of the least shaking of a Room. That the *East* Wind is prejudicial to grafting happens principally from its Violence, altho' it is next to the *North*, the most unfertile, and brings with it very often foggy greasy Weather. But of Winds more particularly hereafter.

11 Things grafted or planted, the greatest and least, defend against tempest, the bird and the beast :
Defended shal prosper, the tother is lost,
the thing with the labour, the time and the cost.

The great Question is How ? For violent Winds will shake them ; Birds, especially *Tomtits* and *Bulfinches*, will hang on them, and pick off the Buds ; and there is no tying the Cyon, or shooting the Birds, or taking them there with Birdlime ; the best Way, I know against Tempests, is to provide beforehand a Shelter against that Side from whence the Storms usually come. That impudent Bird, a *Tomtit*, is not easily frightened, however, if you kill one or more elsewhere, tear them in Pieces, and stick them upon Sticks near your Tree, about the Height of the Cyon, it will deter him some time, but you must expect to lose some. Beasts are more easily kept out.

12 Sow barley in March, in April and May,
the later in sand, and the sooner in claie :
What worser for barlie, then wetnes and cold ?
what better to skilful, than time to be bold ?

Barley is rarely sown in Clay, at present ; however, some Barley Land is stiffer than other, and our Author advises to sow the stiffest first, for what Reason I cannot tell, Mr. *Mortimer* on the other Hand advises to sow the stiffest last, p. 107. which to me seems more agreeable ; for the stiff Land may be brought to a Season, as the Farmers term it, or made finer, better when it is dry than wet. In *Norfolk*, near *Hunston*, I have seen very stiff Lands lie in vast Clods, which I was told was for Barley, and it was too late to expect much from Frosts ; nothing then could moulder it but the Sun, and a very heavy Rowler.

Rowler. It is strange that steeping of Barley, in a very dry Season, is not more in request at present, it must certainly save abundance of Corn that for Want of it is lost.

- 13 Who soweth his barlie, too soone or in raine,
of otes and of thistles, shal after complaine :
I speake not of May weed, cocle and such,
that noieth the barley, so often and much.

The Seeds of the Weeds are in the Ground before the Barley, and the Wet brings them forward, so that they will grow faster than the Barley can. A Thistle, as far as it spreads, burns the Corn, as the Husband-man calls it, but indeed it shades it, and hinders its growth; yet these may, with Care, be weeded off with a Weed-hook, or Stabbing-knife; for they are juicy, and dye a good Way after the Wound. These are for the most Part a Sign of good Land; but wild Oats the Peeler of the poorest Land, and who constantly attends wet Seasons, is not so easily eradicated, or any good Sign at all. They are not easily weeded when in the Blade, and by the Time they come into the Stalk they have done their Mischief. It is a Wonder, not yet accounted for, how they come in such Quantities as they do in some Lands; pull one up, when in the Blade, and you will find a Seed to the Root. Mr. Atwell, in his Surveying, says he took up whole Yepsonds (that is as much as both Hands would hold at a Time) and carry'd them home; one would think they were of the Devil's own sowing, the ancient *Zizania*. May-Weed is a very stinking Weed, it commonly is brought in with Dung, but is easily weeded, and your Seed may be cleansed from Cockle with a Cockle-Sieve.

- 14 Let barlie be harrowed, finely as dust,
then workmanly trench it, and sence it ye must :
This season wel plied, set sowing an end,
and praise and pray God, a good haruest to send.

Barley is a sprightful and tender bladed Corn, and requires as few Impediments as possible; Clods is a great one, and standing Water a worse, for no Corn is more thirsty, and bursts sooner than this; therefore the one must be broken, and the other drain'd off with Water-Furrows. There is one Annoyance I have many times wondred was not prevented more
fre-

frequently than it is : The Annoyance is the Incroachment of great Roads, which in some Places increase to a vast Breadth ; I know one that I believe is half a Mile broad, all in good arable Land, and consequently a great Quantity is lost in it. The common Way is to dig Trenches at a competent Distance, that the Waggon cannot go cross, and therefore the Waggon often go within them, and so more Ground is lost : Now if instead of that they would dig a Ditch and Trench all along, and fence it with Elder Sticks (which may be stuck slopewise into the Bank, two or three Foot long, making a Sort of Chequer Palisade, and will soon grow) this may be prevented, and the Charge is not greater than the frequent digging of Trenches. In this Road, I speak of, there is but one Hedge, of about twelve Chain long, and that has cast the Road clear on the other Side, and sav'd about three Acres of Ground, which else in all likelihood had been lost. Note, Hereby your Sheep-walk is still open, and nothing will crop this Fence to hurt it.

When you have done all you can, you may safely pray God for a good Harvest, otherwise it is Mockery ; and when you have it by Prayer, you will enjoy it by Praises, to him who gave it.

15 Some rowleth their barlie, strait after a raine,
when first it appeereth, to leuel it plaine :
The barlie so vsed, the better doth grow,
and handsome ye make it, at harvest to mow.

After a gentle Shower, especially if there succeed a Sunshine, the Clods break best ; and if the Barley be a little up it is better, rather than worse, the Horse-footing will do the less Damage ; if out of the Milk, which is when the Seed grows lank, and the Root hath taken hold of the Ground, and the broken Clods refresh it.

16 Otes, barlie and pease, harrow after ye sowe,
for rie harrow first, as already ye know :
Leaue wheat little clod, for to couer the head,
that after a frost, it may out and go spread.

That is, in our Countrymen's Phrase, sow Oats, Barley and Pease above Furrow, that is upon the Land after the last ploughing, and then harrow it in ; and Rye, under Furrow, that is upon the Land before the last ploughing, and so plough it in with a very shallow Furrow. Both these may, and are

varied with Success enough; but now Barley and Pease are most frequently sown under Furrow. Wheat is to abide the Winter, and if it be left a little cloddy, it will get round, and the Clods to be sure shelter it from Winds; it is to be reaped, so that its Roughness hinders nothing the Harvest-Work.—And yet,

- 17 If clod in thy wheat, wil not breake with the frost,
if now ye do rowle it, it quiteth the cost:
But see when ye rowle it, the weather be drie,
or else it were better, unrolled to lie.

If it be too cloddy, now is the proper Time to rowl it; your Rowler, for this Use, must be in the Form of a Nine-pin, small at both Ends, and bulg'd in the Middle, and then the Horse goes in the Furrow with very little or no Damage to the Corn by his Footsteps. But our Author very well observes, that unless the Weather be dry, it were better unrolled than to rowl it in the Wet. For Wheat is sown in Clay, and that in wet Weather will stick to the Rowler, and pull up more Wheat by the Roots than it will cherish.

- 18 In March and in April, from morning til night,
in sowing and setting, good huswives delight:
To haue in a garden, or other like plot,
to trim up their house, and to furnish their pot.

This our Author makes the good Woman's Care; but whosever it is, it is at present very much neglected. It is true that the Garden ought not to rob the Field of its Time, but a little Dung can no where be better employed: And if Servants have not spare Time enough to dig it, it will pay for the hiring one to do it. A Table continually loaded with Flesh and Pudding cannot certainly be so wholesome for the Servant, or profitable for the Master, as where Flesh is allayed with Herbs and Roots, which though oftentimes at hand, Custom has brought into disuse: The Master thinks they are Sauce, and that, should he prepare them, his Men would eat ne'er the less, nay rather more Meat; and the Servant thinks nothing Meat but Flesh: So that between them, a very great Part of the Blessings of God are despis'd. I know a poor Man who liv'd near me, who was with his Family almost ready to starve, to whom one Day, in Compassion to him, I told, he might at any time fetch what Cabbages he thought fitting, from my Garden; his Reply

ply was (with a scornful Smile) Cabbages, Sir, I want Meat. And indeed, the People thereabouts were extremely greedy of Flesh; eating, with great Greediness, any thing that dy'd of it self, tho' never so Purple, and near to Corruption. The Sequel of this Fellow was (for I could name several others) that his Wife dy'd not long after, her Blood was become in a Manner wholly purulent, and vast Quantities of Matter came out of her Nose and Ears, almost incredible to relate: And I hear he is since dead, being both in the Prime of their Years.

19 The nature of flowers, dame phisicke doth shew,
she teacheth them al, to be knowne to a few:
To set or to sow, or else sowne to remoue,
how that should be practised, learne if ye loue.

I have heard some say, if we had no foreign Diseases we need not any foreign Medicines; for indeed we have in this Nation abundance of excellent Aromaticks, coming little short of those we have from abroad, and perhaps better adapted to our Constitutions.

20 Land falling or lying, ful south or southwest,
for profit by tillage, is lightly the best:
So garden with Orchard, and hopyard I find,
that want the like benefit, grow out of kind.

These are, without doubt, the Situations that the Sun has most Influence upon in our Climate, and such a Declivity as the Meridian Rays are brought perpendicular to the Plane, comes very little short of the Heat under the Equinoctial; and Fertility, we know, consists in Dilatation, for which we are beholden to Heat, as Barenness, by Contraction, the Effect of Cold. Yet this Situation may not, in all Places, have the same Advantages, as where it fronts the Sea, pois'nous Marshes, Wood-bound, over-shelter'd by Woods, and the like. As also, where they lie too open, and expos'd to Winds: And here it may not be improper to insert what our Author, in *Chap. xiii.* says of the Properties of the Winds.

In W I N T E R.

North winds send haile, South winds bring raine,
East winds we bewaile, West winds blow amaine:

North east is too cold, South east not too warme,
North west is too bold, South west doth no harme.

At the SPRING.

The North is a noier, to graffe of al suites,
The East a destroier, to hearbs and al fruits.

SUMMER.

The South with his shewers, refresheth the corne,
The West to al flowers, may not be forborne.

AUTUMNE.

The West as a father, al goodnes doth bring,
The East, a forbearer no maner of thing:
The South as vnkind, draweth sicknes too neere,
The North as a friend, maketh al againe cleere.

To this I shall make no Comment, only desire the ingenious Reader to remember, in favour of our Author, these Observations are calculated for the Meridian of *Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex.*

21 If field to bear corne, a good tillage doth craue,
what think ye of garden, what garden would haue?
In field without cost, be assured of weedes:
in garden be sure, thou losest thy seedes.

Here our Author lays an Emphasis upon a Garden, which still shews, in his Days, Farmers valued Gardens more than they do now. I remember Mr. *Houghton*, in one of his weekly Papers, advises our Farmers to put such of their Children, whom they design for Farmers, for some time to a Gardener, which would certainly give a great lift to the Ingenious, and to the dull ones no harm. Experiments may be cheaply tried in a Garden, before they are ventur'd at in the Field: And it is no Hyperbole to say there are yet a thousand Improvements to be made in this Nation. Moreover, if my Dame be a little out of Humour, as sometimes good Dames will be, our Farmer may find no less Diversion in his Garden, than if
he

he went a Mile or two to an Alehouse, and made the Breach wider.

22 At spring for the summer, sowe garden ye shal,
at harvest for winter, or sowe not at al:
Oft digging, remoouing, and weeding ye see,
makes hearbe the more hollome, and greater to be.

So that your Garden brings you two Crops (besides your Bees, which may well be reckon'd a third, but of them in their Places) nay indeed as many as there are Months.

For in this Month you may sow Beets, Cabbage, Carrots, Onions, Parsnips, Spinage, Garlick, Leeks, Lettice, and Pease.

In *April*, Cucumbers, Melons, Artichoaks and Madder, may be planted, and French Beans set.

In *May*, sow Sweet Marjoram, Basil, Thyme, and set Rosemary.

In *June* and *July*, Sow Turnips, latter Lettice and Purslain.

In *August*, sow Cabbage, Colliflower and Turnips.

In *September*, plant Straw-berry Setts, also Tulip-Roots.

In *October*, sow all Sorts of Fruit-Stones, Nuts, Kernels, and Seeds for Trees or Stocks.

In *November*, plant the fairest Tulips, the Weather good.

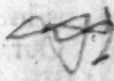
In *December*, set Beans, also sow or set Bay-berries, Laurel-berries, dropping ripe.

In *January*, make hot Beds, and sow your choicest Sallads, as Chervil, Lettice, Radish.

In *February*, sow Annice, Beans, Pease, Radish, Parsnips, Carrots, Potatoes, Onions, Parsly, Spinage, and Corn-Salading. This according to Mr. Mortimer.

23 Time faire to sowe, or to gather be bold,
but set or remooue, when the weather is cold:
Cut al thing or gather, the moone in the wane,
but sowe in increasing, or giue it his bane.

There is an Old Sawe to this purpose :

 In Gard'ning never this Rule forget,
To Sow dry, and Set wet.

What is sown, as Seeds, are Plants compacted in a very little Space; and if they are too soon gorged with Moisture, that

is faster than they can spend it upon their fibrous Roots or Tendrils with which they lay hold on the Earth, they are apt to decompose their inward Parts, and, in plain *English*, burst. But what is sett, namely, Plants (for Beans, Pease, &c. ought not to be sett too wet, any more than other Seeds) have already Moisture in them, and their Texture is already expanded, and in its Shape; these require immediate strong Food, as being out of the Womb: and if their Nurse be dry, instead of getting from her, she sucks the little Moisture they have from them. As to the Moon, altho' I do not utterly despise the Observation of it, yet I think the best time to gather and sow is when it suits best with the Weather.

24. Now sets do aske watering, with pot or with dish,
New sowne do not so, if ye do as I wish:
Through cunning with dible; rake, mattock and spade,
by line and by leavel, trim garden is made:

The first Couplet has been sufficiently spoke of in the last: In the second our Author advises Regularity, which not only barely pleases the Eye, and gives an inward Joy at the first sight, but furthers the Growth and Prosperity of your Vegetables. Care must be taken in this, that every Plant have its share of the Sun, of Moisture, or any other Advantage of the Ground. And such Regularity is not only confin'd to Gardens, but ought to have a Place in all other Affairs. I have heard it observ'd by some Workmen, that Turneps thrive best when houghed *North* and *South*; certainly it must be because the Meridian Sun goes more cleverly through them, and at least once a Day cherishes the Root of each Plant.

25. Who soweth too lateward, hath sildome good seed,
Who soweth too soone, little better shal speed:
Apt time and the season, so diuers to hit,
Let aier and laier, helpe practise and wit.

They that sow too late have the Season following commonly too dry, so that their Seed cannot get the Strength out of the Ground. They that sow too early are as often too wet, and the Weeds grow faster than the Corn; so that here, as in most other things, both Extremes have the same Defect. Our Author's Meaning is that *Aier* and *Laier* help Practice and Wit. By *Aier* I understand Situation, Weather, &c. all that depends upon the Air. By *Laier*, Composition, the Nature of the

the Soil, Heart of the Land, &c. all that depends upon the Earth: These, he says, ought to be consulted with our Experience and Sense. So that what is too soon or too late at one time, may not be so in another. I know there are a great many ingenious Men that are Farmers in this Nation, would these but set down their Observations in this kind, or communicate them, it would redound to a considerable Improvement of their native Country. Why should they bury any more their Knowledge than their Riches? Why should not the World be the better for their having been in it?

26 Now leckes are in feson, for pottage ful good
and spareth the milckcow, and purgeth the blood :
These hauing with peason, for pottage in Lent,
thou sparest both otemel, and bread to be spent.

Here I cannot but bewail again how little use the People of this Nation make of Herbs and Pulse: It is true, the Gentry use them more than ever, but the Middle sort, and Poor, think themselves undone, if they have not their fill of Wheat Bread and fat Flesh. It is not long since I have heard it spoke of, as a very ill Circumstance, that a poor Man, who formerly liv'd well, hath himself, his Wife, and Children, been fain to make many a Dinner upon nothing but Burgoe, *alias*, boil'd Oatmeal: the same, to be sure, would have been said of Pease-Pudding or Pease-Porridge, without Meat, as Flesh is commonly call'd. And I do believe it is so; it is an ill Circumstance to those whose Bodies cannot bear such Food. But what Pity is it that they are not bred otherwise; how does a *Scotch* Man, an *Irish* Man, or *French* Man thrive in this Nation; and what miserable Wretches are our Poor, when in other Nations? how much doth the rise of Wheat or Flesh immediately affect us? of which lamentable Instances have lately happen'd.

27 Though neuer so much, a good huswife doth care,
that such as do labour, haue husbandly fare:
Yet feed them and cram them, til purse do lacke chinke,
no spoone meat, no belly ful, labourers thinke.

It is so still, and he that would think himself next to starv'd should he have warm'd Cabbage or Potatoes with his Meat at Breakfast and at Supper, shall go to Work or to Bed with his Belly brim full of Porridge and skim'd Milk: But the Error
lies

lies in the Master more than the Servant, for other Food might be brought into request.

28 Kil crow, pie and cadow, rooke, buzzard and rauen,
or else go desire them, to seeke a new hauen :
In scaling the yongest, to plucke off his becke,
beware how ye climber, for breaking your necke.

The best way to destroy them is in their Nests, and then the first four are tolerable good Meat; Caddows are Jackdaws: Ravens and Rooks are protected, the one because they are supposed to eat such Ordure and Filth as would otherwise infect the Air near great Cities and Towns; the other, for I know not what. I have heard an Excuse for protecting them, I own, but it was as far off as *France*, and from one who I believe knew little of *England*; he said, that by Reason of its Moistness, *England* was much subject to breeding of Earth-Worms, which would soon destroy all, if this Vermine were not kept to destroy them. How judicious the Remark, I leave to the more learned Reader; I only mention it to shew Monsieur thought that must be some Reason for the cherishing them; whilst I conclude this Month in the Words of our Author, *Chap. xiii.*

Though winds do rage, as winds were wood,
And cause spring tides, to raise great flood,
And lofty ships, leaue anker in mud,
Bereauing many of life and of bloud :
Yet true it is, as cow chews cud,
And trees at spring, do yeeld forth bud,
Except wind stands, as neuer it stood :
It is an ill wind turnes none to good.



A P R I L.

IN Cambridgeshire forward, to Lincolnshire waie,
the champion maketh his fallow in May:
Then thinking so doing, one tillage worth twaine,
by forcing of weed, by that meanes to refraine.

Our Author is for early Summer Fallowing, which without doubt has its Benefits; however, the Husbandman must do what is of most Importance to him, and not lose his present Barly Seed-time, which sometimes is not ended pretty forward in May. I have seen Winter-Corn, in the dry part of *Cambridgeshire*, very forward, which I believe was sown before Harvest; and without doubt, for cold moist Lands, it is best to be forward. Summer Fallowing not only destroys Weeds, but meliorates the Land, exposing it to the Wind and Sun, whereby it receives and is impregnated with the Nitre of the Air, as also to the Sheep, who eat up the very Roots of the Weeds; and therefore the Weeds should be turn'd up whilst juicy, or at least before they have spent any considerable Strength of the Earth. The first ploughing of a Summer Fallow, ought to be shallow, that the Sheep may come at the Roots. The Second, the full Depth, that the Air may impregnate the Mould.

2 If April be dripping, then do I not hate,
for him that hath little, his fallowing late:
Else otherwise fallowing, timely is best,
for saving of Cattel, of plough and the rest.

He inclines to turn in the Earth with somewhat upon it, as supposing that by the Putrefaction of Weeds, some Strength or Heart is got; but by no means it may stand until any thing run is to Seed; and some Seeds there are which are very forward. He had been himself a Farmer, and therefore very well knew, that the Farmer must consider his Circumstances beyond any other established Rule; wherefore to those, who cannot exactly follow him, he advises to do it as well as they can, and

only recommends being as timely as they can, for hurrying of Cattle is by no means good, and what is got in the Ground by Exactness, may be soon lost in them.

- 3 Be sure of plough to be ready at hand,
 yer compass ye spread, that on hillocks did stand:
 Least drying so lying, do make it decaie
 yer euer much water do wash it awaie.

Of this somewhat has been spoken in former Months; neither is it impertinent here, for now the Sun begins to be somewhat strong, and that which was apt to evaporate in *January*, is much more now. If Fertility consists in Salts, like our Salt-Petre, as some argue, then seeing here it is in the most minute Particles, it is easily expanded by the Heat of the Sun, and the Expansion of common Salt-Petre, I am told, is above four thousand to one; so that although the Dews and Rains do bring it down again upon the Earth, it is not upon the same that it was exhal'd from, and therefore the best way is to plough it in, and secure it whilst you have it.

- 4 Looke now to provide ye, of medow for hay,
 if fens be undrowned, there chepest ye may:
 In fen for the bullocke, for horffe not so wel,
 count best the best chepe, wheresoever ye dwell.

Now ye may see what Meadows are well laid up, and what not, and accordingly may chuse your Ground. Fen Hay, or Marsh Hay, is by no means good for a Horse, as being too frothy and light; they thrive best upon up-land Hay. A Bullock will thrive very well on Fen or Marsh Hay, and if it be Mow-burnt a little, it is not the worse, but rather the better for them, and makes them drink heartily.

Note, That this Mow-burn is such as is occasion'd by the Hay being stackt too soon, before its own Juice is thoroughly dried, and by *Norfolk* People is called the Red Raw; not such as is occasion'd by stacking it when wet with Rain, which is a nasty Musty, and stinks.

- 5 Provide ye of cowmeat, for cattel at night,
 and chiefly where commons, lie far out of sight:
 Where cattel be tied, without any meat,
 that profit by dairie, can never be great.

The Cow, especially the common Cow, will yet gladly eat Hay; and then during the Night she can cheerfully chew the Cud, and keep herself warm, for the Nights are yet raw and cold: Add to this, that where there are standing Waters, (as there are in most Commons) the Cow during the Day-time licks greedily the Grass that springs through them in shallow Places, and with it abundance of Water; insomuch, as in Fenny Places, they are often seen to spew clear Water. This a little Hay at Night drinks up in their Stomachs, and converts that, which otherwise chills them, into excellent Nourishment

6 Get into thy hopyard; with plentie of poles,
amongst the same hillocks, diuide them by doles,
Three poles to a hillock (I passe not how long)
shall yeeld thee more profit, set deeply and strong.

The Number of Poles to each Hillock, must be proportioned to their bigness, or distance from each other. I suppose in our Author's time, they made the Hills less than they do now; for now 6, 8 or 10 Poles, are frequent to a Hill, some say 20 are sometimes used: However, overpoling (especially in height) is worse than under-poling. Poles ought to be set sloping, bending towards the South; and if two or three Forks be left towards the top, they prove of good use. Alder Poles peeled, I take to be the best.

7 Sell barke to the tanner, yer timber ye sel,
cut low by the ground, or else doo ye not wel;
In breaking saue crooked, for mil and for ships,
and euer in hewing, saue carpenters chips.

To sell to the Tanner before you are under a Necessity, is to be able to make the best Bargain; for Tanners are commonly but few in a Place, and when you are oblig'd to sell or house, may bid you a Price accordingly: However, Bark is a Commodity that at present sells very well, and Tanners are commonly pretty eager of Buying. In Felling, he advises to cut low, for six Inches at the But, may be more worth than two Foot in another Part of the Tree. I take by breaking, is here meant sawing out, it being called breaking-up by Workmen, in those Parts near where our Author liv'd. He advises then that, in sawing-out, regard be had to cut (especially crooked Timber) to the best Advantage; as for Mill-work and Ship-work, and indeed for any Work, what it is most

proper for, is cutting to the best Advantage. He advises not to allow the Hearer his Chips, but reserve them for one's own Use. And here, with Submission, I take him to mean somewhat craftily; for altho' it is true, that a Hearer in some Places may make his Chips very well worth his Day's Work, yet they are seldom thrown into his Bargain, but he pays somewhat for them: Yet if a Hearer is to have the Chips at a Bargain, certain he can hear so much the squarer, and the Seller of the Timber loses all the Gain of the Wane-edges; which Gain in short is a Cheat, altho' a very customary one.

8 First see it well fensed, yer hearers begin,
then see it well staddled, without and within:
Thus being preserved, and husbandly don,
shal sooner raise profit, to thee or thy sonne.

Fencing before Felling is very proper, for Neat Cattle and Horses too, will crop the tender Sprouts of your Underwood, as it springs up, to its great Damage. Thieves have a great Advantage when they can attack on all Sides, and upon a Fell they are commonly very impudent and busy. Another reason of fencing before you fell, is, that you may use your Bushes whilst they are good, which they will not be long after the Beginning of this Month; and that you may cast up your Banks whilst the Earth is moist. To staddle a Wood, is to leave at certain Distances a sufficient Number of young Trees to replenish it, this is regulated by Law and Custom, only I add, that it is much better to leave more than less, and that of three or four Growths, your next Fell will come by much the sooner: For as an Oak ought not to stand after he is come to his full Growth, any more than Corn after it is ripe; so methinks he should stand till then. A handsome Rank of Trees in a Hedge-row, is both comely and useful: and here rather than miss them, they may be indulged and made into Pollards, and they will pay well enough for their standing.

9 Leaue growing for staddles, the likeliest and best,
though seller and buier, dispatched the rest:
In bushes, in hedgerow, in groue and in wood,
this lesson obserued, is needful and good.

That is the straitest, and those who are most likely and thriving, whose Root is fix'd strongly into the Ground, his

But

But bigger than any other Part of the Tree, his Grain strait without twisting, his Bark clean without *fungi* or Toad-stools, no weeping Holes or decayed Boughs upon him.

10 Saue elme, ash and crabtree, for cart and for plough,
saue step for a stile, of the crotch of the bough:
Saue hazel for forks, saue fallow for rake,
saue huluer and thorne, thereof flaile for to make.

Elm Boards because of their large Scantling and Lightness, are commonly used for Carts, but they are very apt to warp and chop with the Sun and Weather. Ash is a tough and strait grain'd Wood, it is very apt to breed the Worms, especially if fell'd at this Time of the Year; and consequently not so fit for building Timber, as Oak, especially where it touches Lime or Mortar. But for all Sorts of Farmers Utensils, such as Plough-Beams, Axle-Tree, Spokes, Pitch-forks, it hath not its fellow: A forked Step for a Stile, I think one of the worst Uses it can be put to; for they as well as all rodded Stiles are very inconvenient, especially for the Dame and Dairy Maid. Hazel is a light Wood, and when large, tolerably strong and tough; it is much used for Forks to cock Barley or Oats, and frequently grows with three Tines, near the very Shape it is to be used in. Sallow is very light and smooth, and consequently fit for Rakes, for Hay or Corn. Hulver or Holly, is a curious fine grain'd Wood, and comes little short of Box, nay in some Respects it is better, as being much lighter and not so brittle, and yet heavy enough for Flail Swingels. Black Thorn is also very good for Flail-Swingels, but more apt to spit, that is, break out in little Pieces, to these I may also add Crab Tree, which makes very good Swingels, as well as Mill Coggs, for which some account it the best Wood.

11 Make riddance of cariage, yer yeere go about,
for spoiling of plant, that is newly come out:
To carter with oxen, this message I bring,
leau not oxe abroad, for annoying the spring.

When there is a fell of Underwood, the Buds that put out the Spring following, are exceeding juicy and tender; for had the Wood stood, they had all been put forth at *Michaelmas*, at the Shedding of the Leaf, and stood the Hardness of the Winter, whereby they attain a very thick Coat; but now they no
sooner

sooner put forth, but they open into Leaf, and the least brush annoys them. Oxen and Cows exceedingly delight to eat them, they will refuse the Grass, to crop them, but of this has been mention made before.

12 Allowance of fodder, some countries do yeeld, as good for the cattel, as haie in the field : Some mowe up their hedlonds, and plots among corn, and driuen to leaue nothing, unmowne or unshorn.

I suppose *St. Fain*, *None-such*, and several new Sorts of Grasses frequent amongst us at present, were known to our Author. And yet it seems by his first Verse, that in his Days they had some Sort of artificial Fodder, perhaps *Ray-Grass*. The laying of Headlands for Grass, is frequently used in *Norfolk* to this Day, especially where Meadow is scarce, the like of *Spewy* or wet Pieces among Corn ; but their great Supply is *None-such*, which takes very well in a light sandy Mould, as *St. Fain* in a dry chalky Soil.

13 Some commons are barren, the nature is such, and some ouerlaieth the commons too much : The pestered commons, smal profit doth giue, and profit as little, some reape I belieue.

As to Commons, it is a Question whether they are of Benefit to the poorer Sort or not ? For if they are stinted, every one enjoys them according to the Land he rents, and then but little of them falls to the poor Man's Share, if not, the Rich Farmer commonly overstocks them, if good for any thing, and the poor Man has nothing but his Leavings, after he has swept it and is gone into his Ground again. And it is but very poor Milk that a common Cow gives, when she bites near the Ground ; his Wife trudges Morning and Night, sometimes a Mile, and more ; and if he has Children, the Eldest to be sure is kept from going to Service, or Apprentice, till they are good for nothing, and all for to fetch up this Cow, or look after the House and the younger Children, when Father is gone to work, and Mother a Milking. If they make a little Butter once a Week, he or she trudges to Market with it, and lose a Day's Work ; where it is ten to one but they turn it into cheap and unwholsome Flesh. When Winter comes,

comes, he must buy his Wintering, at least with his Calf, and if his Cow come to any Mischance he is ruin'd. I am sure a very small Garden will turn to a much better Account.

14 Some pester the commons, with jades & with geese, with hog without ring, and with sheepe without fleece :

Some lose a daies labour, with seeking their owne,

Some meet with a bootie, they would not have knowne.

Here our Author enumerates divers Abuses of Commons, as first, the Increase of a small bon'd beggarly Stock, they being poison'd with Geese, and plough'd up with Hogs, maintaining a few starv'd Ewes and Lambs, after which, as well as after the Cow, many a Day's Labour is lost, and lastly being a shrewd Means of purloining. The common Walker knows every Bodies Beast upon it, and when he sees a Stranger, he is under a dangerous Temptation, especially if it be a Sheep which may be easily carried off.

15 Great troubles and losses, the champion sees, and euer in brawling, as wasps amongst bees :

As charitie that waie, appeareth but smal,

so lesse be their winnings, or nothing at al.

Our Author liv'd in the Reigns of King *Henry* the Eighth, King *Edward* the Sixth, Queen *Mary* and Queen *Elizabeth* : During which Time, there were several Commotions about the taking in of common Field Land, which I find our Author entirely for, as being for the undoubted Interest of the Nation ; for in short, the greatest Part of the Privileges of common Fields, &c. are but so many Privileges to wrong and quarrel with their Neighbours, to foster a litigious Humour, and set them together by the Ears ; to breed up a starv'd beggarly Stock in Hopes of a Fortnight's Food, of which before. The continual Work that Enclosure produces, is certainly of more Value to them, and the Haws, Acorns, Crabs, and Mast of a Hedge-row, will twice countervail the Shack of a Field : Besides, if the Hog be kept out the longer, the Gleaner is not, which turns to most Advantage,

16 Where champion wanteth, a swinheard for hog,
there many complaineth, of naughty mans dog:
Where ech his owne keeper, appoints without care,
there corne is destroyed, yer men be aware.

And yet it is but in very few Places, that they will agree to have a Swine-Herd, some for Fear of its being the Occasion of a Srint, or settling at the Court what Number of Hogs each shall keep; others in plain down right Terms, least they should not trespass. I knew one who us'd to brag she had the prettiest Creatures (meaning her Swine) who would lie out sometimes a Week together, but then came home so fat and in so good liking, it did her Heart good to see them.

This is what must exasperate any Gentleman, or Farmer, to fallow or shake them soundly with his Dog, and not value the Noise that either of them make, for it is an extravagant Damage that a Hog will do in a little Time, especially amongst Sheaves: The poor Man pays for this too, he must have Pease to fat them after all this; and either the best Part of his Harvest-Money, or his Winter's threshing must go, and if he sells, the Butcher will give him little Profit. Yet I am not against a labouring Man's keeping a Cow and a Sow, provided the Milk be used in his Family, and his Pigs sold for Roasters, and that he rather buy Shots, (Pigs about four Months Old) than rear.

17 The land is wel harted, with help of the fold,
for one or two crops, if so long it wil hold:
If shepheard wou'd keepe them, from stroying of corne,
the walke of his sheepe, might the better be borne.

Folding of Land is one of the most ancient and ready Ways of dunging; and will serve very well for two Crops, but it cannot be had by every one, especially Sub-tenants, who live under a Landlord, or Farmer, who keep a Flock; they will be sure to fold their own, and rarely will be hired: However, if they feed upon the Ground, they commonly leave the Price of their Food behind them, and that is some Benefit, provided the Shepherd keep them together, and make them go regularly over each Ground, but it is too often otherwise, now as well as then; and if the Farmer do not mind his Shepherd, he will as often trespass upon his Master as any body else.

18 Where

18 Where stones be too manie, annoying thy land,
 make seruant come home, with a stone in his hand :
 By daily so doing, haue plentie ye shal,
 both handsome for pauing, and good for a wal.

This at first Sight seems somewhat conceited; but considering the Ease wherewith such a Thing may be done, the meaning is good. What if the Plough-Boy pick a Wallet full whilst the Plough-Man is untracing the Horses? What if the Shepherd, who spends half his Time in Idleness, employ some of it in picking Stones into Heaps, where they may lie until the Cart is at leisure to fetch them; this is as easy, and as much in Sight of his Charge, as in Nut-time to fill his Pockets with Nuts? Now where Stones do annoy the Land, and it is found worth while to employ People at Wages to pick them off, certainly it is worth while to pick them and bring them home at spare Times, for let them be never so troublesome abroad, there are Uses enough for them at home.

19 From April beginning, til Andrew be past,
 so long with good hufwife, hir dairie doth last :
 Good milchow and pasture, good husbands prouide,
 the residue good hufwiues, know best how to guide.

Suffolk and *Essex* were the Countries wherein our Author was a Farmer, and no where are better Dairies for Butter, and neater Housewifes than there; (if too many of them at present do not smoke Tobacco.) Their Butter has a Smell and Flavour beyond any thing to be met with elsewhere; and by *August* it shall acquire a Firmness or Hardness, and be fit for potting. I can assign no better Reason for this, than the Number of Cows they keep, and the Smallness of their Enclosures, by which Means they have frequently fresh Pastures; for when a Cow bites near the Ground, she neither gives in Quantity or Quality her Milk. I cannot deny, but there may be something in their Breed, and I know that one Cow will give much better Milk than another, altho' in the same Pasture, the Champ or Feed may also contribute much. Rampions, Saxifrage, and no doubt many other Grasses, as *St. Foin*, &c. give an odd unfashionable Taste to Butter and Cheese, and by consequence there are those Grasses which please our Palates as well.

20 Ill huswife unskilful, to make her own cheese,
 through trusting of others, hath this for her fees:
 Hir milkepan and creamepot, so slabberd and soft,
 that butter is wanting, and cheese is half lost.

The Eye of the Master makes the Horse fat, and that of
 the Mistress keeps her House and Dairy clean; without due
 Care and following Servants ever where, and ever will be, lazy
 and liquorish. Cleanliness and Opportunity are the two Sup-
 ports of a Dairy, and if it is the Servants Business to act, it is
 the Mistresses to contrive.

21 Where some of a cow, do raise yeerlie a pound,
 with such sillie huswiues, no penny is found:
 Then dairie maid Cisley, hir fault being known,
 apace away trudgeth, with more than hir own.

So far from Gain, that he that trusts to unfaithful Servants,
 shall certainly be a loser; it is incredible the Waste that they
 will make, where left to themselves: I know an Estate now
 worth 200*l. per Ann.* and when in Servants Hands never made
 so; nay, was sometimes in debt, and the worst is, the Fault
 is remediless; for if Dairy-Maid *Cisley*, or Plough-Roger, do
 go off with somewhat more than their own, all the Redress is,
 being at more Charge, at last perhaps they are whipt, which
 is your utmost Satisfaction.

22 Then neighbor for God's sake, if any you see,
 good seruant for dairie house, waine hir to me:
 Such maister such man, such mistresse such maid,
 such husband and huswife, such houses araid.

But notwithstanding the Greatness of the Provocation, if a
 Servant be punished, perhaps you may stay long enough for a-
 nother. Wherefore, a Master and Mistress's Diligence and
 Instruction, is more than doubly rewarded. An indifferent
 Servant shall mend under a diligent Master or Mistress; but
 under a slothful and careless one, the best is sure to be bad.

I shall conclude this Month with our Author's Lesson to
 Dairy Maid *Cisley*.

A Lesson to Dairiemaide Cisley of ten topping Guests.

AS wife that wil, good husband please,
Must shun with skil, such ghests as these.
To Cisse that serues, must marke this note:
What fault deserues, a brushed cote.

Gehezie, Lots wife, and Argus his eies,
Tom piper, poore cobler, and Lazarus thies:
Rough Esau, with Maudlin, and Gentiles that scral,
With bushop that burneth, thus know ye them al.

These toppinglie ghests, be in number but ten,
As welcome to dairie, as beares among men:
Which being described, take heed of ye shal,
For danger of afterclaps, after that fal.

- 1 Gehezie his sicknesse, was whitish and drie,
such cheeses good Cisley, ye floted too nie.

Floting is taking off the Cream; some, as in *Devonshire*, scald their Milk before they flote it, and this raises indeed the more and thicker Cream; but the remainder to be sure must make miserable Cheese: In *Suffolk* they are also noted for this fault. In *Holland* they have an ingenious way of making their Skim-Milk-Cheese eat tollerable, namely, by mixing it up with Seeds, and this scrap'd and eaten with other Cheese, gives a Relish good enough.

- 2 Leaue Lot with hir piller, good Cisley alone,
much saltnefs in white meat, is il for the stone.

Formerly when Salt was cheap, some salted with a plentiful hand out of Covetousness.

- 3 If cheeses in dairie, haue Argus his eies,
tel Cisley the fault in hir huswifery lies.

Because she did not work the Curd well together.

- 4 Tom piper hath houen, and puffed up cheeks.
If cheese be so houen, make Cisse to seeke creeks.

The Curd was not well broken.

- 5 Poore cobbler he tuggeth, his letherlie trash,
if cheefe abide tugging, tug Cisle a crash.

Toughness is occasion'd by its being set too hot, or not wrought up, and the Curd broke in good time.

- 6 If Lazer so lothsome in cheefe be espied,
let baies amend Cisle, or shift hir aside.

What he calls Lazer, which is an inner Corruption, or Rotteness of divers Colours, is chiefly occasion'd from their using Beastings, or Milk soon after Calving; which altho' to it, as well as Butter, it gives a very bright Yellow at first, soon corrupts and is unwholesome. The blew Mould is occasion'd from Moisture, and Cheeses touching one another, the brittle Mould from Bruises, the Cheese-cloths being not clean, or fower, gives a bad Taste also.

- 7 Rough Esau was hairie, from top to the fur,
if cheefe so appeareth, cal Cisle a slut.

A Slut indeed, but Wenches when they can get a Looking Glass, will be running into Places where they are least suspected, and be combing and tricking themselves up; and therefore it is not without reason, some neat Housewives cannot endure a Looking Glass to hang over a Dresser.

- 8 As Maudlen wept, so would Cisle be drest,
for whey in hir cheeses, not halfe enough prest.

If the Curd be very well wrought before it is put into the Press, it will need much the less. Some there are who lay no Weight at all upon them in the Press, but work them very well before hand.

- 9 If gentiles be scraling, cal maggots the pie,
if cheeses haue Gentils, at Cisse by and by.

Gentils comes from their being kept too moist and warm, too seldom turn'd, and too soon heap'd one upon another, and perhaps from being Fly-blown.

10 Blesse

10 Blessè Cisley (good mistriss) that bushop doth ban,
for burning the milke, of hir cheese to the pan.

When the Bishop pass'd by, (in former times) every one ran out to partake of his Blessing, which he plentifully bestow'd as he went along; and those who left their Milk upon the Fire, might find it burnt to the Pan when they came back, and perhaps ban or curse the Bishop as the occasion of it, as much or more than he had bless'd them: Hence it is likely it grew into a Custom to Curse the Bishop when any such Disaster happen'd, for which our Author would have the Mistress bless, *Anglice*, correct her Servant both for her Negligence and Unmannerliness. And indeed throughout this Author, it appears that Farmers, like Masters and Dames, might, and did correct their Servants; and were not oblig'd to treat those like Gentlemen, who could not be suppos'd to have any Civility or good Breeding, and therewith he concludes.

If thou so oft beaten, amendest by this,
I wil no more threaten, I promise thee Cisse.



M A Y,

M A Y.

AT Philip and Jacob, away with the lambs,
that thinkest to haue any milke of their
dams:

At Lammas leaue milking, for feare of a thing,
least *Requiem æternam* in winter they sing.

Milking of Ewes is now very little used in the Southern Parts of England, and not so much in the Northern as formerly, it being of all Milk accounted the worst; and, by reason the Ewes must be milk'd backward, the uncleanliest. However, if you intend to sell your Lambs off at some of the *May Fairs*, it is time to teach them to feed themselves. As to leaving off milking at *Lammas*; I take it, there is no necessity of being precise, for they grow dry of themselves very soon after they have taken Ram; and I take it, there is no Danger at all, or fear of singing *Requiem Æternam*, as our Author terms it, if they be milk'd, (or which is the same) if their Lambs go by their sides until that time, or some time after; for sucking certainly keeps them from the Rot: And there is nothing more dangerous to the Ewe, than to grow fat soon after taking Ram, or to be in plentiful Pasture until about a Fortnight before yeaning. Of the time of their taking Ram I suppose we shall more particularly speak hereafter; I shall only therefore here insert this general Rule, namely, That the best time for Ewes to yeau in is, when the Farmer hath plenty of Food and Succour for them, (however, the earlier the better) and by consequence the best time for them to take Ram in, is just twenty Weeks before that time.

- 2 To milke and to fold them, is much to require,
except he haue pasture, to fil their desire :
- Yet many by milking, such heed they do take,
not hurting their bodies, much profit do make.

Folding

Folding and milking at the same time is, without doubt too much; for altho' folding is very beneficial to Land, there is none but must own it is prejudicial to Sheep, especially on moist Lands, and in wet Weather. However, if Sheep be well fed, or (as our Author terms it) have Pasture to fulfil their Desire, they may bear what Hardship you put upon them the better: But such Pasture consists not only in Quantity but Quality. Your Sheep every Morning come hungry out of the Fold, and fall greedily upon what they first light upon, which if there be no farther Care taken, may be as well bad as good; whereas they ought to be drove immediately to the sweetest and driest Champ, such as Broom-Furze or Juniper.

- 3 Fiue ewes to a cow, make prooffe by a score,
shall double thy dairie, else trust me no more:
Yet may a good hufwife, that knoweth the skil,
haue mixt and vnmixt, at hir pleasure and wil.

Our Author, I suppose, took this for a considerable Secret for if Ewes Milk be fit for any thing it is for Cheese, of which I have eaten very good in *Dantzick*: And without doubt a skilful Hand may so qualify it with Cows Milk as to take off so much of its rankness as may bring it to a grateful taste. Some will have it that *Parmesan* Cheese is a mixture.

- 4 If sheep or thy lamb, fal a wrigling with tail,
go by and by search it, whiles help may preuaile:
That barbarlie handled, I dare thee assure,
cast dust in his arse, thou hast finisht the cure.

If Sheep or Lambs are at any time laxative (which they will be whenever their Food is too moist) then their Dung hangs to the Wool, and their breeds a Worm which soon seizeth the poor Creature in his Rump, which is a very tender part; and this without doubt makes him uneasy, which he shews by the wrigling of his Tail: These Lumps or Treddles being (barberly cut off) that is very close, and the part rub'd with Dust, was in our Author's time the Cure: The common way now is, after the Treddles are cut away to anoint them with Tar; or, if the Maggots are got deep into the Flesh, to wash them well with Scab water, namely, a strong Decoction of Tobacco-Stalks in Chamber-lye.

- 5 Where houses be reeded (as houses have need)
now pare of the mosse, and go beat in the reed:
The iuster ye driue it, the smoother and plaine,
more handsome ye make it, to shut off the raine.

Reeding is no where so well done as in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, and is certainly, of all covering, the neatest, lightest, and warmest; neither will it (like Straw) harbour any Vermine, and besides comes very reasonable and cheap. If it be now and then cleansed from Moss, which stops the Water and rots it, and smooth beaten to be sure it will last the longer; but it is not very apt to gather Moss, and will bear a better Slope than any other Thatch.

- 6 From May til October, leaue cropping, for why;
in woodseere, whatsoeuer thou croppest shal die:
Where Iuie imbraceth the tree very sore,
kil Iuie; else tree wil addle no more.

By Woodseere is meant decay'd or hollow Pollards, which he advises by no means to lop at this time, for it is indeed the ready way to kill them, or any Tree, altho' pretty sound. Ivy sucks not only from its Root, but by adhesion having as many Roots as Tendrils, by which it cleaves to the Tree, and hinders its addling, *Anglice*, being added unto or increasing in bulk.

- 7 Keepe threshing for thresher, til May be come in,
to haue to be sure, fresh chaffe in the bin:
And somewhat to scramble, for hog and for hen,
and worke when it raineth, for loitering men.

Threshing of Corn hath for a long time been, and still continues to be, the way of cleansing it from the Straw and Chaff; and altho' many other ingenious ways may be found out to perform the same thing, I am apt to believe there is none but will be attended with more Inconueniences than this, especially as our Farmers Circumstances now stand; for the Thresher doth not only thrash, but serves the Cattle with fresh Straw, the Hogs with Risk, (Offal-Corn and Weeds, and short knotty Straw) the Poultry with Seeds and Pickings, who all constantly attend on him, are under his Eye, and he is always at hand, ready upon any Emergency of Fire, Thieves, sick Cattle, &c.

8 Be sure of haie, and of prouender some,
for labouring cattel, til pasture be come :
And if ye do mind, to have nothing to sterue,
haue one thing or other, for al things to serue.

Our Author means the Winter is not yet gone, and therefore some dry Meat must still be kept. The Nights are yet sharp, and tender Cattle must be housed. Land-Floods are very apt, about this time, to overflow low Grounds: And in most Up-lands there is very little Bite.

9 Ground compassed wel, a following yeare,
if wheat or thy barlie, too ranke do appeare :
Now eat it with sheepe, or else mow it you may,
for ledging, and so, to the birds for a pray.

We sow now much earlier than we did in our Author's time, so that our Wheat in *May* is generally too forward to be eaten down; and as for mowing it, I believe it is very little practis'd. This is certain however, that where the Ground is too rank or lusty, neither is the Corn so good, for it runs more to Straw than it should; and it is very subject to be irrecoverably lodg'd: Irrecoverably, I say, because shorter Straw may rise when the Corn is much forwarder than longer Straw; and if it should not lodge, but be ripe sooner than the rest of the Field, the Birds to be sure will be first there.

10 In May get a weedhooke, a crotch and a gloue;
and weed out such weedes; as the corne doth not loue:
For weeding of winter corne, now it is best,
but Iune is the better, for weeding the rest:

A Weed-hook is an Instrument well known, and therefore needs no Description, but a Crotch I take to be an Instrument of this Shape, put to a handle of 4 or 5 Foot long, now not much used, but for ought I know may find Acceptance with some, and therefore have here inserted the Shape. There are many other Instruments for weeding, according to what Weeds they are to extirpate, and the Ingenuity of the Farmer. I knew one who had a Field of Wheat over-run



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with Cleavers to a prodigious Degree; the Wheat was near earing, and the Cleavers clung so to it, and ramp'd so high, that it was impossible, if they had gone on, but the whole Field must have been an entire Matt: The Farmer set his Wits to work, and made a sort of a Rake, but with Teeth about two Foot long, and the Handle not much longer; with this he comb'd his Wheat, as one would comb a Head of Hair, from the Roots upwards, and by this means destroy'd the Cleavers, and had a very good Crop.

11 The maieweed doth burne, and the thistle doth freat,
the fitches pul downward, both rie and the wheat:
The brake and the cockle, be noisome too much,
yet like vnto boddle, no weed there is such.

The Farmer has a great many Enemies, and of them Weeds are none of the least, particularly these here mentioned; as, The *May-weed*, which is almost to look at like a Camomile, but a filthy stinking Weed, and burns, that is, spreads itself to such a Compass, as kills all the Corn near it; it is frequent where old Dunghills have stood long, and consequently lives upon the best, and sucks the very Heart. The Thistle is also a Sign of a good Soil, but is a very bad Guest, and must be destroyed in time, for if he be suffer'd to seed, the Seeds flie and infect the Summer Fallows. The Fitch, or as some call it, the Tine-tare, is common upon almost any Land; he spares not the poorest and hungriest, and must be weeded in time or he pulls down the Corn. The Fern, or Brake, is a very bad Weed where it takes, and not easily weeded out; it is observed they die pretty far below any Bruise, and therefore some advise to mow them down, when they are yet young, with a wooden Scythe. The Cockle has, for a long Time, lain under a bad Name, but, to give him his due, he is not so pernicious as these his Companions; 'tis true, he (as all other Weeds) will live upon the best that the poor Ground has, but he spreads not much, is easily weeded by hand, and his Seed easily separated from the Corn by the help of a Sieve: Nay, grind him he gives a white Flower, malt him he works with the Barley; however, his Room is better than his Company. Boddle is a Weed, like the *May-Weed*, but bears a large yellow Flower, and is a very filthy spreading Ulcer upon Land; it is hardy, and will grow again, unless the Roots are clean pulled up; the Seed is also very spreading.

M A Y.

12 Slacke neuer thy weeding, for dearth nor for cheap,
the corne shall reward it, yer euer ye reape :
And speciallie where, ye do trust for to seed,
let that be well used, the better to speed.

The Weeds, if neglected, rob the Corn both in Quantity and Quality, increase the Husbandman's Labour, make him run greater Hazards than needful, (for he cannot inn weedy Corn as he can clean) and run down his Market; this is in Proportion as 1 to 32, if not more. What is intended for Seed to be sure ought to be thorough clean.

13 In Maie is good sowing, thy bucke or thy brank,
That blacke is as pepper, and smelleth so ranke:
It is to thy land, as a comfort or mucke,
and al things it maketh, as fat as a bucke.

This useful Grain is very much disused in *England*, I suppose because of its Rankness of Taste, which in my Mind is not unpleasant. It is for the most Part given to Hogs and Poultry, where it has no good Reputation, for it makes the Fat frothy and light, and apt to drip away. But then methinks it should be the better Food for Man, to whom too much hard Fat can be of no Benefit, but a Burthen. Excellent Pancakes are made of it in *Holland*, and are eaten by the Best; and perhaps other Wheat had never rose to so great a Price (as it did here of late) if People would have made shift with any thing else. It will grow upon dry and poor Land, but must be sowed late, because it cannot endure the least Frost. It is frequently ploughed in, when in Blossom, to make a Season for Wheat the ensuing Year.

14 Sowe bucke after barlie, or after thy wheat,
a pecke to a rood, if the measure be great,
Three earths see he giue it, and sow it aboue,
and harrow it finely, if bucke ye do loue.

It is also very proper to sow it before Wheat, the Ground is made clean and fine by it, and it sufficing itself with a Froth leaves the solid Strength for the Wheat.

15 Who pescods would gather, to haue with the last,
to serve for his household, til haruest be past :

Must sowe them in Maie, in a corner ye shall,
where through so late growing, no hindrance may fal.

This Observation I take to be of very little Use; for the latter End of *May* is most commonly dry, and very unfit for sowing Pease, which require a moist Earth. Pidgeons, Rooks, and other Vermine, about that Time begin to be scant, and will certainly find them out, be they in never so bye a Corner. If they are much shaded, (as by the Word Corner I suppose he means) they will run to nothing but Hawm. And lastly, if they do come to Perfection, and are fit to eat in Harvest, the gathering and shelling them is more worth than twice their Value. I suppose, in our Author's Time, French or Kidney-Beans were not so well known as they now are.

16 Good flax and good hempe, for to haue of hir owne,
in Maie a good huswife, wil see it be sown:
And afterward trim it, to serue at a need,
the fimble to spin, and the carle for hir seed.

I have spoke elsewhere somewhat on this Subject, and therefore shall only observe here, that it is great Pity that so much Money goes into foreign Parts for that, which with Industry, we might as well have at home; we have Ground every whit as fit for it as any where, and People as ingenious, and Winter-Evenings Work as much wanted. The Fimble, or Female Hemp, is that which is ripe soonest, and fittest for spinning, and is not worth above half as much as the Carle with its Seed.

17 Get into thy hopyard, for now it is time,
to teach Robin hop, on his pole how to clime:
To follow the sunne, as his property is,
and weed him and trim him, if aught go amis.

The Hop-Yard must now be minded, and the Hop guided to his Pole, those who are unruly must be bound with Woolen Yarn, Hemp, Peelings, or Bast. I am inform'd that twenty Shillings an Acre is the common Price for looking after a Hop Ground.

18 Grasse, thistle, and mustard seed, hemlock and bur,
tine, mallow and nettle, that keep such a stir:

With

With peacocke and turkie, that nibbles off top,
are very ill neighbours, to seely poor hop.

Here he enumerates some of the poor Hop's Enemies, at least such as may be remedied, which the Weeds may be by paring the Ground if the Season be wet, or if dry by houghing it. How the Peacock may be frighted from any Place I have mentioned before, and I suppose the same Remedy will serve for the Turkey; I have experienc'd, they are very great Enemies to the Hop at this Season.

10 From wheat go and rake out, the titters or tine,
if eare be not forth, it wil rise again fine:
Use now in thy rie, little raking or none,
break tine from his root, and so let it alone.

This Custom of raking of Wheat to get out the Tine-Tare is very little practis'd at present, neither is it very proper, unless a Ground be in a manner quite over-run with it. The better Way, I take to be what he orders for Rye, which he supposes too forward, to rake, namely, to break the Tine off at the Root, and to let it stand on the Straw; for it sticks so close, and is wound so often about the Straw, that it will be apt to tear the Corn up by the Roots rather than come off.

20 Banks newly quicksetted, some weeding do craue,
the kindlier nourishment, thereby for to haue:
Then after a shewer, to weeding a snatch,
more easily weed, with the root to dispatch.

If the Quickset be laid in the Bank, it may most easily be done by a Boy going along the Ditch; in it is true, after a Shower the Weeds come up best by the Roots; but never stay for that, a Boy that will work may easily weed forty Rod in a Day.

21 The fen and quamire, so marish by kind,
and are to be drained, now win to thy mind:
Which yeerely undrained, and suffered vncut,
annoieth the medowes, that thereon do but.

For if the lower Drains are not kept open and free, the back Water is kept longer than ordinary upon the Upper Grounds: It's true, if it is kept too long, it does loosen and soften the Sward, makes it subject to Rushes, Arsmart, and coarse Grass.
But

But latter Experience has taught us, that at this Time of the Year such Ground as is intended or laid up for Hay, will endure (nay requires) a pretty deal of Moisture, and a Stoppage below, wisely manag'd, may be of as good Use as draining.

- 22 Take heed to thy bees, that are ready to swarme, the losse thereof now, is a crowns worth of harme : Let skilful be ready, and diligence seene, least being too carelesse, thou loosest thy beene.

The Proverb says, *A Swarm in May is worth a Load of Hay*, so that our Author speaks modestly when he values them but at a Crown. Their Hours of swarming are for the most Part between the Hours of ten and three, and ought to be watch'd every Day ; which may be done by a Boy or Girl, that at the same time may spin, knit, or sow. The tinkling after them with a Warming-Pan, Frying-Pan, or Kettle, is of good Use to let the Neighbours know you have a Swarm in the Air, which you claim where ever it lights, but I believe of very little Purpose to the reclaiming the Bees, who are believ'd to delight in no Noise but their own.

- 23 In Maie at the furthest, twifallow thy land, much drouth may else after, cause plough for to stand: This tilth being done, ye haue passed the worst, then after who ploweth, plow thou with the furst.

In stiff Ground, if a dry Time comes, though your Plough and Team may be very good, yet the one may be too slender, and the other too weak ; and if this happen in the latter End of *May*, 'tis ten to one but it lasts a good Part of *June*. All this while your Ground is spending itself in Weeds, and you lose the most proper Time to kill them if your Ground had been turn'd up.

- 24 Twifallow once ended, get tumbrel and man, and compas that fallow, as soon as ye can : Let skilful bestow it, where need is vpon, more profit the sooner, to follow thereon.

Concerning dunging hath been disserted before ; and I believe the last Line of this Stanza should be read, *More profit the sooner to fallow* (not follow) *thereon* ; that is, the sooner you plough it in the better.

25 Hide hedlonds with mucke, if ye wil to the knees,
 so dripped and shadowed, with bushes and trees :
 Bare plots ful of galles, if ye plow ouerthwart,
 and compas it then, is a husbandly part.

That is, if you have Muck to spare make your Dunghil
 upon a Head-land, it is nearest the Gate perhaps, and is drip-
 ped and shaded ; so that the Strength will not exhale, but ra-
 ther increase by the Addition of Moisture.

26 Let children be hired to lay to their bones,
 from fallow as needeth, to gather vp stones :
 What wisdom for profit, aduiseeth vnto,
 that husband and huswife, must willingly do.

Without doubt, the best Time for picking of Stones is when
 the Ground is Summer-fallowed, especially after the Second
 ploughing, which turns up deepest. About this Time also
 Highways are mended, and Stones are wanted. But his first
 Line, altho' perhaps only made for Rhime sake, is what I take
 most notice of: I would fain have Children hired and encour-
 aged, as much as possible, to lay to their Bones, and be able
 betimes to do and endure. The poor Man complains of his
 hard Fate, envies those who live easier than himself (as he
 thinks,) and resolves his Son shall not be such a Slave: What-
 ever it cost him, he will give him Learning. He does so, and
 makes this Creature, that might have been as useful as himself,
 an idle, malapert, conceited Wretch, that thinks himself lear-
 ned, because he can read and write and his Father can do nei-
 ther ; whom he scorns and despises for his Cost and Care, and
 thinks labour beneath him. These are the Pests of all well-or-
 der'd Governments, and those who furnish Prisons and the
 Gallows. It were to be wish'd that every one had a competent
 Stock of Learning (Reading and Writing, I mean) it would
 make the Thing more common, all Men more useful, and take
 off that false Value some put upon themselves. And it is as
 much to be wish'd, that with that Reading and Writing some-
 thing solid might be taught, some mechanical Employment that
 might employ that Reading and Writing ; at least, give the
 Child a Taste of the Use for which his Learning is intended.
 To say that Children are not capable of Work, or Labour, is
 a Mistake ; they are capable of infinite Variety, and every one
 improveable : Do not they work at their Play ? Do not they
 make

make prodigious Efforts, when rode by the Devil of their own Will? And has not Virtue as much Power as Satan? Certainly it has, and more, and if the Devil be but dismounted Virtue will soon be in his Place, and make another Sort of a Figure: And this may be done by Encouragement, hiring, as our Author calls it, and upon Occasion a well-tim'd Severity, and the Nobleness and Usefulness of the Creature, truly improv'd, will soon compensate the Pains.

27 To graffe with thy calues, in some meadow plot
neer,

where neither their mothers, may see them nor heer:
Where water is plenty, and barth to sit warme,
and looke wel unto them, for taking of harme.

If the Mother and they are within hearing of one another there will be nothing but perpetual Bellowing and Din, and neither of them will take their Food contentedly. A Barth is a small Enclosure commonly near a House, for this and the like Uses.

28 Pinch neuer thy wennels, of water or meat,
if euer ye hope, for to haue them good neat:
In summer time daily, in winter in frost,
if cattel lacke drinke, they be utterly lost.

Nothing that is young ought to be pinch'd of sufficient Food and Sleep, and therefore in your Barth there should be always clean Water standing by them, for they will frequently get up, drink, and lye down again. In frosty Weather it is not amiss to break the Ice for them every Morning; for they are a silly Creature, and when they go to drink, and find the Water dry, they are apt to refuse it some time after. And that there are frequent Frosts in *April* and *May*, any one who gets up sometimes may be convinc'd of.

29 For coueting much, ouerlaie not thy Ground,
and then shal thy cattel, be lusty and found:
But pinch them of pasture, while summer doth last,
and list at their tailes, yer a winter be past.

Whoever denies his Beast Plenty when God sends Plenty, must expect he will not be able to endure Want. The forward Summer Food is what fills the Veins with Blood, and consequently covers the Body with Fat, which is not only a Covering,

ing, cherishing vital Heat, and defending it from the Injuries of the Air, but it is a Store, a Store of Food against ensuing Scarceness: Whatsoever poor Beast is depriv'd of these, his Winter Food and Clothing, must be in a wretched Condition; when he must struggle with Scarcity and Cold; his coarse Food will then want Heat to digest it, and he shall starve upon what plumper Cattle will thrive upon, and the Churl his Master deserves to lift at his Tail, or worse.

- 30 Get home with thy fewel, made ready to fet,
the sooner the easier, carriage to get:
Or otherwise linger, the carriage thereon,
til (where as ye left it) a quarter be gon.

The Fewel here meant is such Wood as hath either been felled or grubbed during the Winter, which is well known never to get by laying abroad.

- 31 His firing in summer, let citizen buie,
least buying in winter, make puffle for to crie:
For carman and collier, harps both on a string,
in winter they cast, to be with thee to bring.

In our Author's Time, and not long since, the *Yarmouth* and *Ipswich* Colliers were laid up in the Winter, and then the Spring-Market was always dearest, and the Summer cheapest, but since, that Affair is very much varied; however, Carriage is best and cheapest in Summer still.

- 32 From Maie to mid August, an hower or two,
let patch sleepe a snatch, howsoever ye do:
Though sleeping one houre, refresheth his song,
yet trust not Hob growthed, for sleeping too long.

This alludes to the Custom of *Norfolk*, where the Dame and her Maidens get up very early to their Dairy, on churning Days, and are as duly laid (as they call it) sometimes from eleven till two. The Ploughman takes two Turns, or Bouts, the first from betimes in the Morning until about eleven, and after his Dinner and Nap (which sometimes lasts till two also) he takes a fresh Pair of Horses and ploughs until Night. How good a Way this is I leave to those who have experienc'd: It looks indeed lazy, but, to give them their due, they are an active People enough; for at mid-August, or their Harvest

Time, one would think they never slept at all, there is of them all Day long in the Field, and during all the Moon-shine of the Nights.

- 33 The knowledge of stilling, is one pretty feat,
the waters be holsome, the charges not great :
What timely thou gettest, while summer doth last,
thinke winter will helpe thee, to spend it as fast.

Roses, Mints, Balm, and some other Aromatick Herbs, give very pleasant and delightfome Waters, if skilfully drawn off; but the numerous Catalogue of simple distill'd Waters, especially if drawn from the cold Still, are for the most Part somewhat worse than fair clean Water, and will corrupt sooner. Our Farmer may, with a good Alembick, distil the Lees of his strong Drink, Metheaglin, and Cyder; and if he has too many Goosberries, with a very little Trouble he may get a good Spirit from them also; and when he has done, the same Lees and Goosberries, &c. are rather better for his Hogs than they were before. Such Spirit he may again rectify over Wormwood, or what else he thinks fitting, and then he has a good Dram at Hand.

- 34 Fine Basil desireth, it may be hir lot,
to grow as a gilliflower, trim in a pot :
That ladies and gentils, for whom ye do serue,
may helpe hir as needeth, poore life to preferue.

This, I suppose, is a Complement to the Farmer's Landlady, or any other Lady that visits his Farm; for most People stroak Garden-Basil, which leaves a grateful Smell on the Hand; and he will have it, that such stroaking from a fair Lady preserves the Life of the Basil.

- 35 Keepe oxe from thy cow, that to profit would go,
least cow be deceiued, by oxe doing so :
And thou recompensed, for suffering the same,
with want of a calfe, and cow to wax lame.

To profit is a modest Word for to Bull, and the Scope is, he would not have the Farmer suffer his Cow to be tantaliz'd with an Ox, for Oxen are somewhat gamesome at this Time of the Year; tho', by the by, 'tis inserted here somewhat *mal a propos*.

And

And therefore I conclude with his Observations of the Planets.

AS huswiues are teached, instead of a clocke,
how winter night passeth, by crowing of cocke:
So, here by the planets, as far as I dare,
some lessons I leaue, for the husbandman's share.

If day star appeereth, day comfort is nie,
if sunne be at South, it is noone by and by:
If sunne be at Westward, it setteth anon,
if sunne be at setting, the day is soone gon.

Moone changed, keeps closet, three daies like a Queen,
yer she in hir prime, wil of any be seene:
If great she appeareth, it showreth out,
if small she appeareth, it signifieth drouit.

At change or at ful, come it late or else soone,
maine sea is at highest, at midnight and noone:
But yet in the creekes, it is latter high flood,
through farnes of running, by reason as good.

Tide flowing is feared, for many a thing,
great danger to such as be sicke, it doth bring,
Sea eb, by long ebbing, some respit doth giue,
and sendeth good comfort, to such as shal liue.

K 2

JUNE.

J U N E.

1 **W** Ash sheep for the better, where water doth
run,
and let him go clenly, and drie in the sunne :
Then share him and spare not, at two daies an end :
the sooner the better, his corps wil amend.

Running Water to be sure is best, for it is a vast deal of
Filth that washes off from a Sheep ; but then it is oft times
very sheer, and cold, especially in small swift Brooks. After
Washing, some good swarded Pasture is best for them, provided
it be fresh and not too near the Ground. Keep them as much
from Paths and frequented Roads as possible ; for altho' some
pretend that the Sand makes the Wooll weigh, it is a Cheat,
and makes it shear the worse, and what is got that way, may
soon be lost in the Life of the Sheep ; for the Workman find-
ing double the Trouble, will soon grow careles of their Hides ;
besides the Price of the Wooll, that being run down in the
Market.

2 Reward not thy sheepe, when ye take off his cote,
with twitches and patches, as broad as a groat :
Let not such ungentleness, happen to thine,
least flie with her gentils, do make it to pine.

A Slash is bad, but if well covered with Tar in due Time,
it is soon cured ; but a Prick with the Point of the Sheers passes
oft undiscover'd, which swells, putrifies, and oft-times destroys
the poor Creature.

3 Let lambs go unclipped, til June be half worne,
the better the fleeces, wil grow to be shorne :
The Pie wil discharge thee, for pulling the rest,
the lighter the sheepe is, then feedeth it best.

This

This is to be understood of the second Year after they are year'd, for then they are yet much tenderer than the other Sheep, and therefore to be shear'd last; for if they are shorn whilst the Nights are cold, they will be apt to be stiff, and not able to rise in the Morning, when Mr. Magpye will be sure to be with them betimes, and pick out their Eyes before they are stirring. On the other Hand, to leave the Wooll on too long, is to trouble the Creature with an unnecessary Burthen to hinder it from cleverly stooping to its Meat, as well as walking about to seek it, and to mat the Wooll so as to be good for little. Every Thing has its Time for Ripeness; and when ripe, it ought to be gather'd in the best Opportunity.

- 4 If meadow be forward, be mowing of some,
but mow as the makers, may wel overcome:
Take heed to the weather, the wind and the skie,
if danger approacheth, then cocke apace crie.

Where Land is likely to burn, such as hanging Sides of Hills, gravelly Ground, and the like, if the Weather hold dry, mow it ere it begin to wither. Lower Grounds may go longer, but then not only (as our Author advises) cock against Rain, but in the fairest Weather, towards the Evening, and that before the Dew falls, whilst the Heat of the Sun is yet in it; and in so doing, your Hay shall make during the Night as well as the Day. If Hay be hous'd or reek'd too green, provided it has not taken Wet by Rain, it is apt to Mow-burn, and sometimes sets it self on Fire, which shews it is at Work all the while; whereas Hay made up wet by Rain, shall turn to a filthy stinking Mould. Note here, although Mow-burnt is an extreme, yet there may be some Degrees of it very useful, particularly if your Hay be coarse, Mow-burning it a little tenders and sweetens it. I have known near the North Bank, between *Wisbich* and *Peterborough*, good Hay for Cattle made of mere Sedges, after this Manner.

- 5 Plough earlie til ten a clocke, then to thy haie,
in plowing and carting, so profit ye may:
By little and little, thus doing ye win,
that plough shal not hinder, when haruest comes in.

The Grasse and Ground ought to be very dry, before you begin to make Hay. Till which Time, you may employ your Team and Servants in Summer-fallowing, carrying Muck
and

and other husbandly Matters: So that you may set forward your Affairs in such a Manner, that when Harveſt time comes, you will have nothing to do but to tend it.

Your Horſes are now alſo in very good Caſe, and if you have not Work for them at home, a Bargain of Timber-Carriage is not amiſs at this Time of the Year; or any other Work that brings Money into the Pocket.

6 Provide of thine owne, to haue al things at hand,
leat work and the workeman, unoccupied ſtand:
Loue ſeldome to borrow, that thinkeſt to ſaue,
for he that once lendeth, twiſe looketh to haue.

He that goes a Borrowing, goes a Sorrowing; however, there are ſome odd Things that it is hardly worth while to provide ones Self with, (and where others who have more Occaſion for them are willing to lend, ſuch as Ladders of extraordinary Size, Draining-Ploughs, Rook-Nets, &c.) they may be diſpenſed with. But what is for every ones Uſe at the ſame time, as Rakes, Pitch-Forks, Syths, Carts, Waggon, &c. it is unpardonable in the Farmer to be unprovided with them, and the Lender's Answer ought to be, *I want them myſelf*. Moreover, as our Author well obſerves, beſides the Payment, the Courteſy will be required doubly; and who would willingly for every ſmall Matter be under ſuch an Obligation? Who, but ſuch as are wilfully lazy? And they are thoſe who indeed take moſt Pains.

7 Let cart be wel ſearched, without and within,
wel clowted and greaſed, yer hay time begin:
Thy haie being caried, though carter had ſworne:
carts border wel boarded, is ſauing of corne.

It is too late to be Mending, when the Cart ſhould be a Working; in Hay Season you ought (if poſſible) to be too quick for the Weather; at beſt your Time of Carriage is but a Part of the Day, for Mornings and Evenings are unfit, and that Part of the Day that is often catching: So that altho' the idle Carter ſwore his ſtinking Breath away at your Importunity, it is not amiſs to follow him, and ſee that all his Tackle be in order. In Corn Harveſt, the Cleſts at the Bottom of a Cart or Waggon, may give the Goole or Hog more when they have enough; but a cloſe Cart will ſave more than the Fleſh of one Hog or ten Geefe are worth.

- 8 Good husbands that laie, to saue al things upright,
for tumbrels and carts, haue a shed readie dight :
Where under the hog, may in winter lie warme,
to stand so inclosed, and wind do no harme.

The Sun does more Harm to a Cart than either Wind or Rain; however, they are all three Enemies, and are easily prevented by a Cart-shed, which need not cost much, for one may be made with eight Crotchets (forked Posts) and as many Spars: It may be covered with Bavin Wood, Brakes, Furzes, or other Firing. However, a handsome Cart-House, with a Granary over it, is better: Under these a Cart is immediately out of Wind and Weather. Your Hog (a Creature extreemly fearful of Wind and Rain, and to whom the Heat of the Sun is very pernicious) finds here immediate Shelter and Shade, and a Wheel to rub against.

- 9 So likewise a houe!, will serue for a roome,
to stacke on the pease, when haruest shal come :
And serue thee in winter, moreouer than that,
to shut up thy porklings, thou meanest to fat.

In the Margent our Author explains a Hovel to be a Place enclos'd with Crotchets, and covered with Poles and Straw: These are of very good Use to put Corn-Stacks, especially Pease and Tares upon; for if there be but a Dog Kennel under them, they are hollow under, free from the Damp of the Earth, which they are very apt to draw, and out of the Hog's Reach, who will certainly undermine them, if he can.

- 10 Some barnroom haue little, and yardroom as much,
yet corn in the field, appartain to such :
Then houels and rikes, they are forced to make,
abroad or at home, for necessities sake.

The Use of Barns is in most Request in the Southern Parts of *England*; and altho' they are very useful and convenient for the Tenant, they are very chargeable to the Landlord; for this is certain, the more Building the more to be built, or at least to be kept in Repair. But Landlords are for improving their Estates (as they call it) that is for great Rents, though they purchase them; for when a Thing is to be hard let, a Tenant

is

is in the Right to insist upon his utmost Conveniencies. Now supposing a Tenant has a good Bargain, and is loath to be craving, I assure him very good Shift (in a considerable Farm) may be made with a small Barn-Room; and Reeks and Hovels have their Conveniencies, as Corn doth not Mow-burn so soon in them as in the Barn. Hovels may be made so as to afford no Shelter for Rats and Mice; and by the Help of an old Sail to clap over them till they are compleated, your Corn may be as free from the Accidents of Weather, as in a Barn; only take Heed, if you thatch them, that you watch the Thatcher that he wet not his Straw; for if you don't, he certainly will, and that will musty your Corn a pretty Way. Wherefore, some, with very good Reason, never thatch their Hay-Stacks, but make them with a very keen Slope, and rake them well down.

11 Make sure of breadcorn, of al other graine,
lie drie and well looked too, for Mousse and for
Raine :

Though fitches aud pease, and such other as they,
for pestring too much, on a hovel ye lay.

That is, lay it in the best Place you have, for which the Wheat-Houses now in request (and which are much easier seen than described) are I think the best. Mustiness in Bread-Corn is not to be endured, and wherever there is the least Drop of Moisture, it must be expected: Neither is it very excusable in Pease and Fitches, for a Hog is as nice when he comes to be fatted, as he is greedy when he is kept hungry.

12 With whins or with furzes, thy hovel renew,
for turfe and for sedge, for to bake and to brew:
For charcole and seacole, as also for thacke,
for tall wood and billet, as yeerly ye lacke.

Whins and Furzes are the same, and the Sides of a Hovel wattled with them, will keep out a pretty deal of Weather; but I take not that here for our Author's Meaning, but that on each Side and on the Top of your Hovel, a Stack of Whins, Brakes, or whatever other light Firing you have, be erected. This, as you consume (being very good for Baking and Brewing) renew again, because he would have your Turf and Seacole, tall Wood, or Bavin and Billet secured under, or indeed any

any thing else ; as for Example, Reed for Thatching, which altho' perhaps brought in only for Rhime sake, may be here secured from the Weather ; a very few Crotchets and Poles will make up such a Hovel, and those very slender ones too. Besides these, your Yard may be fenc'd in with this light Firing, a Yard or two thick ; and this in bleak Situations, as Warren-Houses, &c. is an excellent Relief for Cattle in cold Nights : So that with a very little Pains, nay none in Comparison to Ricking, the Husbandman and his Cattle are warmed with the same Firing.

13 What husbandlie husbands, except they be fooles,
but handsom haue storehouse, for trinkets & tooles :
And al in good order, fast locked to lie,
what euer is needful, to find by and by.

It is very needful for a Farmer to have some smattering of the ordinary Trades, and not send to the Carpenter and Collar-Maker, or run to the Smith at every Turn : Their Time is oftentimes more worth than the Job, and Goings and Comings must and ought to be reckon'd for. Besides, sometimes a small Job to your Plow, or Cart, a Stitch or two in your Harness, or a Nail or two in a Horse's Shoe is required in an Instant, when your whole Team lose their Time too, whilst you send abroad. A Stitch in Time saves Nine ; and the Woman shall look much tighter who herself takes Care she be so, than she that trusts to any other to keep her so.

14 Thy houses and barnes, would be looked vpon,
and al things amended, yer haruest come on :
Things thus set in order, in quiet and rest,
shal further thy haruest, and pleasure thee best.

So about the House and Household Utensils, about the Barns, Stables, Pales, &c. twenty Things may be done by our Farmer and his Servants on rainy Days, and this (if it does not presently) will one Day turn to Account ; however, at the present it turns to more Account than doing Nothing, or which is worse than Nothing, idling at the Ale-House. Yet this is not altogether our Author's Meaning, who would have your Barns against Haruest made tight, particularly from Drips (the most unknown of all Damages) all your Haruest-Tools ready and in good Order, and your Servants too ; that when God sends you

a good Crop, you may have nothing to do but to thank him, and rejoyce like a Giant to run your Course.

- 15 The bushes and thorne, with the shrubs that do noy,
in woodfere or summer, cut down to destroy :
But where as decaie, to the tree ye wil none,
for danger in woodfere, let hacking alone.

Woodfere is the Season of felling of Wood, as this Month is the properest Time to stub up what ye would destroy. The Heat of the Sun dries the Moisture of the Wounds very deep; and all Prunings at this Time dry further after the Knife, than at any other. So that with our Author, what you have a Mind to destroy, now cut it down, what you have not, let alone.

- 16 At midsummer, down with the brembles & brakes,
and after abroad, with thy forkes and thy rakes :
Set mowers a mowing, where medow is grown,
the longer now standing, the worse to be mown.

Brambles, or common Bushes, may be now stub'd for Firing, where they annoy; but where they are wanted, (as I take it at present in most Parts they are) namely, for fencing Wood, they are better let alone until fencing Time, both because then they are most wanted, and now they will be destroyed, as in the foregoing Stanza. But this is the Time of the Year for Brakes, (if they are ready) which many Years they are not, until the next Month. Note, when you mow these for Firing, the shortest and thickest are the best worth your while; for altho' a Man may mow two Load of long rank Blakes to his one that mows the short; yet after they are made and on the Cart, the Cart-load of small ones shall weigh one and a half of the great ones; and besides, shall lie in much less Compass, and rise in Flakes out of the Stack: As to the latter two Lines, every one knows when a Thing is full ripe, it improves no longer without altering its Condition.

- 17 Now down with the grasse, vpon hedlonds about,
that groweth in shadow, so ranke and so stout :
But grasse vpon hedlond, of barlie and pease,
when haruest is ended, go mowe if ye please.

Of Head-Londs, or Hedge-Greens, has been spoken before; and now as I said before, is the Time of cutting what is fit to cut. But why Grass upon Head-Londs of Barley, or Pease, should be let alone (until after Harvest) I cannot tell. It is true, they were sown much later than Winter Corn, but not so late that their Grass will not be fit to cut till after Harvest. However, since our Author concludes with, *Go now if you please*, we may suppose every Man is left to his Liberty in this Case, and that the Reason why he put it beyond Harvest, was, because he thought it would not be fit before, and in Harvest the Mower might be better employ'd.

18 Such muddie deep ditches, and pits in the field,
that al a drie summer, no water wil yeeld:

By sieng and casting, that mud vpon heapes,
commodities many, the husbandman reapes.

Feying, is cleaning a Ditch or Pond, so as the Water may come clear. The Mud of these is excellent for mellowing stiff Ground, if mixt with Chalk; it is also excellent upon Pasture Ground, kindly refreshing the Root, especially for hot Gravely. And altho' I find this was a Compost in our Author's Time, yet at present in *Norfolk*, I find nothing more disus'd; for as it mellows Clay, it would also stiff Sand. But Turnips I suppose supplies this, and many other Defects, which makes them less mindful of Composts, than their Neighbours of *Cambridgeshire*, *Huntington* and *Bedford*, who are most ingenious that way.

A Lesson where and when to plant a good Hop-yard.

19 Whom fanſie perſwadeth, among other crops,
to haue for his ſpending, ſufficient of hops:

Muſt willingly follow, of choiſes to chooſe,
ſuch leſſons approued, or ſkilful do uſe.

Hops I take it were but newly come into Vogue in our Author's Time, for altho' they firſt began to be us'd in the Reign of King *Henry* the Eighth, ſoon after his Expedition againſt *Tournay*; yet like other Improvements, they met with many ignorant Enemies; however, the longer they were us'd, the better they were known; and at laſt many began to plant them,

and amongst the rest our Author, and chuses his Ground as in the next.

20 Ground grauel lie, sandie, and mixed with claie,
is naughty for hops, any manner of waie :
Or if it be mingled with rubbish and stone,
for drinesse and barrenesse, let it alone.

There is an Infancy due to all Inventions, which the Time our Author wrote in, I take to have been that of Hops, which are since much better known; however, his Rule holds still tolerably well; for altho' Grounds inclining to Sand, are found to produce good Hop-yards, yet too sandy is bad, and inclining to Clay, Stony or Rocky, wholly rejected at present.

21 Choose soile for the hop, of the rottenest mould,
well doonged and wrought, as a garden plot should:
Not far from the water, (but not ouerflowne)
this lesson well noted, is meet to be knowne.

The Hop delights in the richest Land, a deep Mould and light, if mix'd with Sand it's the better. A black Garden-Mould is excellent for the Hop, says Mr. *Worlidge*, p. 145. *Syst. Agr.*

The Hop delights most in rich black Garden-Mould that is deep and light, and that is mix'd rather with Sand than Clay, Mr. *Mortimer*, p. 132. *Art of Husb.*

If it, meaning the Hop Ground, lie near the Water, and may be laid dry, it is the better; M. *Worlidge*, p. 145.

So that modern Experience has not far out-gone our Author in the Judgment of what Ground is most fit, altho' Experience has taught us, that many Grounds that were formerly rejected, have since turn'd to very good account; for most Sort of Lands that are in good Heart, will do well enough, except as before excepted, the Stony, Rocky and stiff Clays.

22 The sun in the south, or else southlie and west,
is joy to the hop, as welcommed ghest :
But mind in the north, or else northerly cast,
to hop is as ill, as a tray in a feast.

So that, as near as you can, your Ground must be open to the South, and fenced to the North and East.

23 Meet plot for a hop-yard, once found as is told,
make thereof account, as of jewel of gold :
Now dig it and leave it, the sun for to burne,
and afterward fense it, to serve for that turne.

And therefore this Digression comes into this Month, for
now is the scalding time to burn up the Roots of the Grasse,
and if it has been Meadow, now is its Crop of Hay off.

24 The hop for his profit, I thus do exalt,
it strengtheneth drinke, and fauoureth malt :
And being wel brued, long kept it wil last,
and drawing abide, if ye draw not too fast:

There is, without doubt, a considerable Spirit in Hops,
witness the Smell of Wort, when it first comes through, (as
the Brewers term beginning to boil) but this is for the most
part lost in the Air, as being extremely volatile ; however,
there remains a Bitterness which is extremely grateful and di-
gestive to the Stomach, and makes that keep and drink brisk,
which otherwise would be both small and soure ; keep, as our
Author says, if it be drawn out its due length.

To do which too, this present Month, which is somewhat
short, I hope the Reader will be diverted with our Author's
Account of the Farmer's daily Diet, and his Feasting-Days,
which, whether practised or no, at present, is not so material
as to shew the Customs of his Time.

The FARMER'S DAILY DIET.

A PLOT set downe, for farmers quiet,
as time requires, to frame his diet :
With sometime fish, and sometime fast,
that household store may longer last.

Let Lent wel kept, offend not thee,
for March and April breeders be :
Spend herring first, saue saltfish last,
for saltfish is good, when lent is past.

When Easter comes, who knows not than,
that veale and bacon is the man ?

And Martilmas beefe, doth bear good tacke,
when countrey folke, do dainties lacke.

Mar.

Marblemas Beef, is Beef dried in the Chimney, as Bacon, and is so called, because it was usual to kill the Beef for this Provision, about the Feast of St. *Martin*, Nov. 11.

When Macrel ceaseth from the seas,
John Baptist brings grasse, beefe and pease.

Fresh herring plenty, Michel brings,
with fatted crones, and such old things.

A Crone is a Ewe, whose Teeth are so worn down, that she can no longer keep her Sheep-walk, these are commonly bought in in the Winter with Lamb, and kept in good Ground till the *Michaelmas* following. The Lamb and their Wool commonly pays their Price and their going, and the Country Man has a Carcass of very good Mutton for nothing, and sometimes less than nothing; but his Care and Skill is required in buying them in at the first.

All-Saints do lay, for porke and fowse,
for sprat and spurlings, for their house.

I cannot tell what he means by Spurlings, unless dry'd Sprats, which are frequent in *Norfolk*, are called so.

At Christmas play, and make good cheere,
for Christmas comes but once a yeere.

Though some men do, as do they would,
let thrifty do, as do they should.

For causes good, so many wayes,
keep Embrings well, and fasting dayes.

What law commands, we ought to obey,
for Friday, Saturn and Wednesday.

The land doth will, the sea doth wish,
spare sometime flesh, and feed of fish.

Where fish is scant, and fruit of trees,
supply that want with butter and cheese, *quoth* Tuffer.

So

So that here is to be noted, altho' our Author was a very sound Protestant, as appears by his Belief, and several other Writings of his; yet he thought it no Popery to keep the Ember Weeks, the Vigils, (which I take to be what he means by Fasting-Days) and *Fridays*, *Saturdays* and *Wednesdays*, as Days of Fasting and Abstinence; and not only he, but that it was the Custom of the Times wherein he liv'd, the Custom in Queen *Elizabeth's* Days, in which this his Book was publish'd. Neither is there any reason that a good Custom should be utterly abolish'd because it has been abused, or because Men err in some things, they must be supposed to do so in every thing. But it seems the desire of Novelty had not yet so much intoxicated Men as it has done since our Author, and with him the Farmer-like part of the Nation had their set Feasting Days also, as follows; which if he had thought was superstitious, he would hardly have recommended.

The Ploughman's Feast-Days.

This would not be slept (slipt)
Old guise must be kept.

GOOD huswives, whom God hath inriched
ynough,
forget not the feasts, that belong to the plough:
The meaning is only to ioy and be glad,
for comfort with labour, is fit to be had.

Plough Munday.

2 Plough-Munday, next after that Twelftide is past,
bids out with the plough, the worst husband is last:
If plowman get hatchet, or whip to the skreene,
maids loseth their cocke, if no water be seen.

After *Christmas* (which formerly, during the Twelve Days, was a Time of very little Work every Gentleman feasted the Farmers, and every Farmer their Servants and Task-Men. *Plough Monday* puts them in mind of their Business. In the Morning the Men and Maid Servants strive who shall shew their Diligence in rising earliest; if the Plough Man can get his Whip, his Plough-Staff, Hatchet, or any thing that he wants in the Field by the Fire-side, before the Maid hath got her
Kettle

Kettle on, then the Maid loseth her *Shrovetide* Cock, and it wholly belongs to the Men. Thus did our Forefathers strive to allure Youth to their Duty, and provided them innocent Mirth, as well as Labour. On this *Plough Monday* they have a good Supper, and some Strong Drink, that they might not go immediately out of one Extreme into another.

Shroftide.

- 3 At Shroftide to shrouing, go thresh the fat hen,
if blindfold can kill her, then give it thy men :
Maids, fritters and pancakes, ynow see ye make,
let slut haue one pancake, for company sake.

The Hen is hung at a Fellow's Back, who has also some Horse-Bells about him, the rest of the Fellows are blinded, and have Boughs in their Hands, with which they chase this Fellow and his Hen about some large Court or small Enclosure. The Fellow with his Hen and Bells shifting as well as he can, they follow the Sound, and sometimes hit him and his Hen, other times, if he can get behind one of them, they thresh one another well favour'dly; but the Jest is, the Maids are to blind the Fellows, which they do with their Aprons, and the cunning Baggages will endear their Sweet Hearts with a peeping Hole, whilst the others look out as sharp to hinder it. After this the Hen is boil'd with Bacon, and store of Pancakes and Fritters are made. She that is noted for lying a Bed long, or any other Miscarriage, hath the first Pancake presented to her, which most commonly falls to the Dog's Share at last, for no one will own it their Due. Thus Youth encouraged, shamed and feasted with very little Cost, and always their Feasts were accompanied with Exercise. The Loss of which laudable Custom, is one of the Benefits we have got by smoaking Tobacco.

Sheep-shearing.

- 4 Wife make vs a dinner, spare flesh neither corne,
make wafers and cakes, for our sheepe must be shorne,
At sheep-shearing neighbours, none other things craue,
but good cheare and welcome, like neighbours to haue.

The

The Wake-Day.

- 5 Fil oven ful of flawnes, Ginnie passe not for sleepe,
to morrow thy father his wake daie wil keepe:
Then euery wanton may danse at hir wil,
both Tomkin and Tomlin, and Jankin with Gil.

The Wake-Day, is the Day on which the Parish Church was dedicated, called so, because the Night before it, they were used to watch till Morning in the Church, and feasted all the next Day. Waking in the Church was left off because of some Abuses, and we see here it was converted to wakeing at the Oven. The other continued down to our Author's Days, and in a great many Places continues still to be observed with all Sorts of rural Merriments; such as Dancing, Wrestling, Cudgel-playing, &c.

Harvest-Home.

- 6 For al this good feasting, yet art thou not loose,
til ploughman thou givest, his haruest home goose;
Though goose go in stubble, I passe not for that,
let goose have a goose, be she lean, be she fat.

The Goose is forfeited if they overthrow during the Harvest.

Seed-Cake.

- 7 Wife sometime this week, if the weather hold cleer,
an end of wheat sowing, we make for this yeere:
Remember thou therefore, though I do it not,
the seed cake, the pastries, and surmenty pot.

Twice a Week Roast.

- 8 Good Ploughmen look weekly of custom and right,
for rostmeat on fundaies, and thursday at night:
This dooing and keeping, such custom and guise,
they call the good huswife, they loue thee likewise.

I am of Opinion this is rarely kept up at present, at least I do not know any Farmer that does; and if it be not excepted, I cannot but say, that Servants, at present, are less addicted to their Palates than they were in our Author's Days. 'Tis true, the vast Profusion of Roast Meat that was then in Gen-

tlomens Houses, gave them Inclinations that way, which it was Ingenuity in the Farmer to humour; rather than directly to oppose. But since Frugality is now got into Gentlemens Houses and Palaces, it is but fit it should be admitted into Farmers Houses and Cottages also, which, whatever it is in the general, I am sure it is a Benefit in particular.



J U L Y.

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J U L Y.

GO muster thy seruants, be captaine thy selfe,
 prouiding them weapon and other like pelfe :
 Get bottels and wallets, keepe field in the heat,
 the feare is as much, as the danger is great.

The Title of Captain is not at all here misapplied, (altho' the Command be only over a Company of innocent Rusticks, whose Arms are Pitch-folks and Rakes, and their Ammunition Small Beer and Bread and Cheefe) for here is required a due Prudence and Foresight, Celerity and Resolution, for it often happens one Hour well employed, may save the wasting of twenty; and if the Eye of the Master can make a Horse fat, it will make a Servant work. Mr. *Trenchfield*, in his *Cap of Gray Heirs*, &c. tells us a Story to this Purpose, of a certain Gentleman, who having wasted a great Part of his Estate by Mismanagement, sold the one half of it, and let the rest to a Farmer. The Farmer throve so well, that in a little time he offer'd to buy his Farm: This seem'd very strange to the Gentleman, who could not live upon twice as much of his own, as the other got an Estate out of, and paid Rent for. But the Farmer clear'd the Disproportion, by telling him, that the Difference lay in their frequent use of two Words only: You, said the Farmer, say *Go*, and I say *Come*: You bid your Servants go about this or that Work, and I say to my People, come Boys, let's go do this or that, &c.

2 With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,
 graffe lately in swathes, is meat for an Oxe :
 That done go and cart it, and haue it awaie,
 the battel is fought, ye haue gotten the daie.

The *Norfolk* Way of making Hay is, first to let it lie in the Swarth three Days, or more, then turn it; afterwards throw it into Wind-rows, and thence cock it hot, and load it off as soon as they can. If it Mow-burn a little, they think of it ne'er the worse, for Neat Cattle will greedily eat, and it mel-

lows the coarser Hay. But for Up-land, or good Marsh-Ground either, this Way is not so good as that of Grass-Cocking, as it is used about *London*, and in these more Southern Parts: Here the Colour, Flavour, and true Sweetness is preserv'd; and tho' an Ox may be of another Mind, an Horse has Wit enough to thrive, work, or waste accordingly. *Note*, Mow-burnt Hay is very apt to breed the Bots in Horses.

- 3 Paie justly thy tithes, whatsoeuer thou be,
that God may in blessing, send foizon to thee:
Though vicar be bad, or the parson euil,
go not for thy tithing thy self to the diuel.

Tithes are of vast Antiquity, at least as old as *Abraham*, who paid Tithes to *Melchizedec*, *Heb. 7.* nay, it is not improbable, that the Offerings made by *Cain* and *Abel*, were first Fruits or Tenths; and it is naturally imprinted in the Mind of Man, that a Part of the Product of the Earth, ought to be dedicated to the Supreme Being, he who with his Rain and Sunshine produces it. As to the Abuses that have (by Man's deprav'd Nature) been made of such Dedications, they do not in the least countenance the Disuse of them, or any farther Abuses of them.

- 4 Let haie be wel made, or auise else auous,
for moulding in mow, or of firing thy house:
Lay coarcest aside, for the ox and the cow,
the finest for sheepe, and thy gelding allow.

Auise else auous is a Jargon, for assure yourself, or be assur'd, Hay, if hous'd unmade, is of all Things the most apt to take Fire; what takes Wet by Rain, is not so apt to fire, but it turns to a filthy stinking Mouldiness, that nothing will touch. Coarse and long shady Hay is more coveted by a Cow or Ox, than the best hard Hay; for they having no upper Teeth, cannot chew it so well. Sheep are for the shortest Hay, and are somewhat more nice than Horses, and Horses, as before, love the best.

- 5 Then down with thy hedlonds, that groweth about,
leau neuer a dallop, vnmowne and had out:
Though grasse be but thin, about barlie and pease,
yet picked vp cleane, ye shal find therein ease.

The

The Hedlonds here meant, are the Hedge Greens formerly mention'd, which he advises to begin with; for here the Grasse ought to be cut younger than in Meadows, because if it stand to Seed, it is apt to foul the arable Land. A Dallop is a Patch or Bit of Ground, lying here and there amongst Corn, which, either for its Moistness, Roots of Trees, or other Obstacle, has escaped the Plough: These our Author advises to seek out, and cut off their Grass, and bring it away Green, and make it elsewhere, to avoid its pestring the arable Land that surrounds it, with its Seeds, as it is very apt to do. The Hedge Greens, about Barly and Pease, to be sure are thinnest, as having been fed down, and turned upon in the Spring, much later than those of the Wheat and Rye; yet if it is thin, it is better than nothing to carry off, and it is worse than nothing to stand, for the former Reason.

6 Thry fallow betime, for destroying of weed,
least thistle and docke, fal a bloming and seed:
Such season may chance, it shall stand thee upon:
to til it again yer summer be gon.

Thry Fallowing is the third Plowing of a Summer Fallow, which he advises to be done betimes, that the Ground be a little hardned, before the Thistle and Dock Seeds fly, that they may not take Root, but perish on the Ground.

He adds, indeed, that it may so happen, that you may be forc'd to plough it once more, before the Summer is ended; which if you do, you shall not lose your Trouble, but be paid for it in the next Crop; for the Pitch-fork in the Hay, the Shovel in the Malt, and the Plough in the Land, seldom go unrewarded.

7 Not rent off but cut off, ripe bean with a knife,
for hindering stalke, of hir vegetiue life,
So gather the lowest, and leauing the top,
shal teach thee a tricke, for to double thy crop.

This is spoken of Garden Beans, which ought not to be stript downwards, as some do; neither is it at present usual, or for the Gardners Profit to cut them, but with a half Turn our Gardners at present twist them off; and this is perform'd much quicker and cleverer than cutting, and besides, fills the Bushel the sooner.

8 Wife

8 Wife plucke fro thy seed hempe, the fimble hemp cleen
 this looketh more yellow, the other more green :
 Use tone for thy spinning, leaue michel the tother,
 for shoo thread and halter, for rope and such other.

Fimble or Female Hemp, so called, I suppose, because it falls to the Females Share to *Tew Taw*, that is, dress it, and to spin it, &c. is the smaller, and when fit to gather, yellowish about the Stalk: It has a bended flower'd Head, not a knotted one, as the Carl Hemp (which is what bears the Seed) has: This, I suppose, is so called because it falls to the Carls or Churl's Share, our Author's *Michel*, and is very coarse, fit only for Cordage, &c. but its Seed makes amends, and bears near twice the Value of the other.

9 Now pluck up thy flax, for thy maidens to spin,
 first see it dried, and timely got in :
 And mowe up the branke, and away with it drie,
 and house it vp close, out of danger to lie.

Flax is often made a double Crop, namely Seed and Flax, but the Linnen is much better of such that is gather'd before it runs to Seed, being gather'd in the Bloom. It delights in a light rich Mould, and is a great Impairer of Land; therefore most proper to temper over-rank Grounds. Buck or Brank is now us'd to feed Cattle with upon the Ground, but no where to make a Sort of Hay of, as here our Author intimates. And it is very rare that it is ripe so soon as this Month, however, if it be, it lies abroad a good while after it is cut down, and altho' it suffers not much by Wet, yet it must be hous'd very dry, and if never so dry, there is no Fear of its shedding its Seed,

10 While Wormwood hath seed, get a handful ortwain,
 to saue against March, to make flea to refraine :
 Where chambers is sweeped, and wormwood is strown,
 no flea for his life, dare abide to be knowne.

Wormwood is certainly an Enemy to the Flea, but true hearty Cleanliness is a greater; for frequent washing a Room will prevent them, which is better than driving them out of one Room into another; howsoever, where a Room is infected with them, it must be rid of them, and this Way of our Author

thor may do it well enough for ought I know. To get them out of a Bed, get good Store of Wormwood, lay it over your Mat or Ticking, over it lay a Blanket, and on it your Bed. After this Blanket smells well of the Wormwood, shift it from below, above you, and let all the rest go the same Circulation; be sure let your Bed be turn'd every Time it is made, and suffer no Dust about you, or as little as you can, for cleanly Housewives say, Dust breeds Fleas.

- 11 What fauor is better, if physick be true,
for places infected, than wormwood and rue:
It is as a comfort for hart and the braine,
and therefore to haue it, it is not in vaine.

Wormwood and Rue were in great Reputation in our Author's Time; and since him, we find *Culpeper* in his Herbal, has made a great Clutter about the Virtues of Wormwood; without Doubt they have their Virtues, but when too generally apply'd, as I am of Opinion here they are, they may sometimes do hurt as well as good; for Instance, Wormwood is found out to be an Enemy to the Nerves, and consequently to the Eyes.

- 12 Get grist to the mill, to haue plentie in store,
least miller lacke water, as many do more:
The meale the more yeeldeth, if seruant be true,
and miller that tosseth, takes none but his due.

Against the approaching Haruest, Store of all Things should be laid in, especially Meal and Flower; that there be no running and fetching when the Work requires all Hands, and if (as often it does about that Season) Water and Wind fail at the Mill, you will be sadly put to it indeed: Besides, your lying at the Miller's Mercy, who, in Haruest-time, for his fetching and carrying takes double Toll; and Millers are not bely'd when 'tis said of them, that they or their Servants have many crafty Tricks; one is this, on Pretence of haste of Work, they will set the Mill a going faster than ordinary, this shall heat the Meal so, that when it comes out, it shall suck in so much Moisture from the Air, as to be considerably heavier than it was before it was ground. And thus ends our Author's Husbandry for this Month, which is somewhat short, and therefore I present the Reader with some Digressions.

A Comparifon between Champion Country and Several.

1 **T**HE countrie inclofed I praife,
 the tother delighteth not me,
 For nothing the wealth it doth raife,
 to fuch as inferiour be.
 Now both of them partly I know,
 here fomewhat I mind for to fhew.

2 There fwineherd that keepeth the hog,
 there neatheard with cur and his horne,
 There fhepheard with whistle and dog,
 be fenfe to the medow and corne.
 There horfe being tide on a balk :
 is ready with theefe for to walke.

This is fpoken of Champion, or open Field Land, ironically calling thefe the Fences to the Meadow and Corn; which are the greateft Nufances. A Balk, is what in fome Places is call'd a mier Bank, being narrow Slips of Land between Ground and Ground.

3 Where al thing in common do reft,
 corne feeld with the pafture and mead,
 Though common ye do for the beft,
 yet what doth it ftand you in ftand ?
 There common as commoners vfe,
 for otherwife fhalt thou not choofe.

The Feed is commonly fwep't all at once, and the Sheep will be down before their Time.

4 What laier much better than there,
 or cheaper (thereon to do wel ?)
 What drudgery more any where,
 leffe good thereof where can ye tel :
 What gotten by fummer is feen :
 in winter is eaten vp cleene.

5 Example by Leicefterfhire,
 what foile can be better then that :

For any thing hart can desire,
and yet doth it want ye see what.

Mast, couert, close, pasture and wood :
and other things needful as good.

6 All these do inclosure bring,
experience teacheth no lesse,

I speake not to boast of the thing;
but only a troth to expresse.

Example (if doubt ye do make :)
by Suffolke and Essex go take.

7 More plenty of mutton and beefe;
corne, butter and cheese of the best,

More wealth any where (to be breese)
more people, more handsome and prest;

Where find ye? (go searck any cost :)
than there where enclosure is most.

There is very good Cheese as well as bad made in *Suffolk*,
but the great Dairies starve their Cheese for their Butter. Prest
is an old Word, for Neat or Tight, I suppose comes from
Women being strait-lac'd.

8 More worke for the labouring man,
as wel in the towne as the feeld,

Or thereof deuise (if ye can)
more profit what countries do yeeld?

More sildome where see ye the poore;
go begging from dore vnto dore.

9 In Norfolke behold the despaire,
of tillage too much to be borne,

By drouers from faire vnto faire,
and others destroying the corne,

By custome and couetous pates,
by gaps and opening of gates.

In *Norfolk* (in our Author's Time) there was a considerable
Rebellion, call'd *Ket's* Rebellion against Inclosures, and to this
Day they take the Liberty of throwing open all Inclosures out

of the common Field, these are commonly call'd Lammas Lands, and half Year Lands.

- 10 What speake I of commoners by,
 with drawing al after a line,
 So noying the corne as it lie,
 with cattel with connies and swine?
 When thou hast bestowed thy cost,
 looke halfe of the same to be lost.

Field Gates cannot always be kept shut, great Roads frequently lying through them, and then especially when the Commons are bare, common Cattle are apt to throng in. Where they border upon Warrens, Conies will run a great Way into them. Conies are best fenc'd out by observing their Haunts, and thrusting Bushes, Brambles, or Furzes into them, also topping the Hedge with Furzes, so as that they may hang over, is a good way, but a wet Ditch if possible to be had, is the best Fence: Against Swine there is scarce any Fence, except a Wall or Pale; a Dog to follow or shake him by the Ear is somewhat, but there is much Corn broke down by their running. The best way is for every one to agree to keep them up, when there is nothing to be got by them abroad but what they steal.

- 11 The flocks of the lords of the soile,
 do yeerely the winter corne wrong,
 The same in a manner they spoile,
 with feeding so low and so long.
 And therefore that champion feeld,
 doth feldome good winter corne yeeld.

In ancient Times their Winter Corn was not so soon in the Ground as in nearer; and in many Courts the Limitation of the Flocks feeding is much longer, than not only our present Improvement of Husbandry, but that of our Author's Time would allow.

- 12 By Cambridge a towne I do know,
 where many good husbands do dwel,
 Whose losses by lossels doth shew,
 more heere then is needful to tel.

Determine at court what they shal,
performed is nothing at al.

There are a great many such Towns at present, but the
more is the Pity; for indeed here lies the whole Grievance, and
because of Perjury the Nation justly mourns.

13 The champion robbeth by night,
and prowleth and filcheth by daie,
Himselfe and his beast out of sight,
both spoileth and maketh awaie.
Not only thy grasse but thy corne:
both after and yer it be shorne.

14 Pease bolt with thy pease he wil haue,
his household to feed and his hog:
Now stealeth he, now wil he craue,
and now wil he cosen and cog.
In bridewel a number be stript:
lesse worthie than theefe to be whipt.

Pease Bolt is in the Hawm or Straw.

15 The oxe boy as ill as he,
or worser if worse may be found,
For spoiling from thine and from thee,
of grasse and of corne on the ground,
Lay neuer so wel for to saue it,
by night or by day he wil haue it.

16 What orchard vnrobbed escapes?
or puller dare walke in their jet?
But homeward or outward (like apes)
they count it their own they can get.
Lord, if ye do take them, what sturs,
how hold they together like burs?

17 For commons these commoners crie,
inclosing they may not abide,
Yet some be not able to buie
a cow with a calfe by her side.

Nor lay not to liue by their worke,
but theeuifhly loiter and lurke.

18 The Lord of the towne is to blame,
for these and for many faults mo,
For that he doth know of the same,
yet lets it vnpunished go.

Such Lords ill example do giue :
where varlets and drabs so may live.

19 What footpaths are made and how broad,
annoiance too much to be borne,
With horse and with cattel what rode,
is made through euery man's corne ?
Where champions ruleth the roft,
there dailie disorder is most.

20 Their sheepe when they driue for to wash,
how careles such sheepe they do guide ?
The farmer they leaue in the lash,
with losses on every side.
Though any man's corne they do bite,
they wil not allow him a mite.

21 What hunting and hauking is there ?
corne looking for fickle at hand,
Acts lawles to doo without fear,
how yeerely togither they band.
More harm to another they do :
than they would be done so vnto.

Here are enumerated Abundance of Inconueniences that
Champion Land undergoes, in comparifon to Enclosed, and all
very true ; for where there is a great deal, what is every
Body's Care, is no Body's Care ; for it is not only the Shep-
herd, the Ox-boy and the Poor, but Farmers and Gentlemen
will filch from one another, form pretended Privileges out of
bad Customs, such as Foot-paths, Sheep-drifts, Privilege of
Hunting and Hawking ; in all which, they shall frequently do
Mifchief out of Malice, as well as Covetousnefs. The Foot-
path was at first conniv'd at for the Conueniency of some new
built House, or the like ; this soon becomes a Horse-way, and

in a little time a Road. The Sheep-way perhaps at first, went all thro' the Sheep-Owner's Land, or some untill'd Space. In Proceſs of Time the Farms are otherwiſe divided, and this Ground becomes good Arable, and is in Tilth; upon any Spite the Sheep ſhall go through it ſtill, and the Crop ſhall be eaten to the Ground, and the beſt Remedy for the Injur'd, namely, a Suit in Law turns to the worſt Account. The Lord preſerves a Privilege of Hunting and Hawking, and with this Privilege he ſhall vaunt and inſult his richer and more careful Neighbour, nay, and endamage him too at his Pleaſure; and if he ſues for Remedy, our Law allows him no more Coſt than Damage: Theſe are in a great meaſure remedied by Incloſures, the Stile hinders the Path from becoming a Horſe-way, and the Hedges on both Sides keep the Sheep within their Bounds, and the Gallant is probably now more afraid of his Neck, than before he was of his Neighbour's Livelihood; but our Author enumerates many more Conveniences, as

22 More profit is quieter found,
 (where paſtures in ſeuerall be:
 Of one ſilly aker of ground,
 then champion maketh of three.
 Againe what a joy is it knowne:
 when men may be bold with their owne.

I remember, I ſaw a Man once throwing in ſome Peaſe pretty late in the Evening, How now Neighbour, ſaid I, you are late at work. Ay, ay, replied he, Field-land, Field-land, one can call nothing one's own, untill it is in the Barn. And he ſaid true; for next Morning I ſaw he had thrown a Land's Breadth of mine into his: Now, whether he did it out of Knavery or Ignorance, matters not, it could not have been done in an Encloſure, and thoſe who have experienced it, know what mad Work a high Wind will make amongſt Peaſe and Barley Cocks in a common Field, when in an Encloſure the Hedge ſtops all.

23 The tone is commended for graine,
 yet bread made of beans they do eate,
 The tother for one loſe hath twaine,
 of maſtlin, of rie, or of wheat.
 The champion liueth ful bare:
 when woodland ful mery doe fare.

24 Tone giveth his corne in a dearth,
to horffe, sheepe and hog erie day,
The tother giue cattel warme barth,
and feed them with straw and with hay.
Corne spent of the tone so in vaine :
the tother doth sel to his gaine.]

25 Tone barefoot and ragged do go,
and ready in winter to sterue,
When tother ye see do not so,
but hath that is needful to serue.
Tone paine in a cottage doth take,
when tother trim bowers do make.

26 Tone laieth for turfe and for sedge,
and hath it with wonderful suit,
When tother in euery hedge,
hath plentie of fewel and fruit.
Euils twentie times worser than these,
enclosure quickly would ease.

It is likely this was wrote soon after *Ket's* Rebellion, as a Dissuasive from the like, and to persuaide the poorer Sort quietly to endure Enclosures, which certainly are more beneficial in the main to the Poor, than all their pretended Privileges; for where there are Enclosures, there is a constant Succession of Work; whereas in Champion, Harveft and Threshing is almost all they have.

27 In woodland the poore men that haue,
scarce fullie two akers of land,
More merily liue and do saue,
than tother with twenty in hand.
Yet pay they as much for the two,
as tother for twentie must do.

The Wood Lands is that Part of *Norfolk*, which lies about *Watton*, *Hingham* and *East Dereham*, where indeed are very pretty Habitations; and where I think every thing looks much more chearful than any other Part of that Country: But here may be taken in general. It is true, two Acres of Enclosure is but a very poor Man's Farm, no more is twenty of Arable,

Arable, especially if a poor Team must be kept to plough it; however, that this two Acres of Meadow or Pasture enclos'd, and near a good Common, shall clear more at the Year's End, than the twenty of Champion; is plain to whosoever will consider. The two Acres is only for Hay to winter, and after Grass to succour a Cow or two, or perhaps a few Ewes and Lambs, and all the poor Man's Time is fav'd for Day Labour, whereas, the others is most, if not all laid out upon his Team and his Land: Hence

28 The labourer coming from thence,
in woodland to worke any where,
(I warrant you) goeth not hence,
to worke any more again there.
If this same be true (as it is)
why gather they nothing of this:

29 The poore at the enclosure doth grutch,
because of abuses that fal,
Least some man should haue but too much,
and some again nothing at al.
If order might therein be found,
What were to the feuerall ground.

Our Author closes with a Truth which we see daily practis'd, and which I believe was in Use in his Days, as well as ours; that is, that the Rich shall share the Common amongst themselves, and let the Poor have no Proportional with them; nay, what remains after Encroachment, shall be the more swept with the rich Men's Stock, who now lies more convenient for it than before: This is enough to make a poor Man grutch, because he has but a little, he shall have less; and (as in all the Insurrections and Rebellions we read of) we find none to consist of so mean People, and none so stout and obstinate as *Ket's* Rebellion: I am apt to believe they had some Provocations from the Gentry, against whom their particular Bent was. In short, as the Common is not the Poor's, as Poor, yet according to the Freehold they rent or enjoy, they have a Share in every Division or Encroachment, and altho' no Encroachment will justify the flying into a Rebellion, it will justify a Complaint, and Desire to be reliev'd, and the taking all lawful Opportunities to be so, and therefore here it may not be improper to conclude with

with our Author's Character of an envious and naughty Neighbour, Chap. 54.

AN envious neighbour is easie to find,
 His cumbersome fetches, are seldome behind.
 His hatred procureth, from naughtie to wurffe,
 His friendship like Judas, that carried the purffe.
 His head is a storehouse, with quarrels ful fraught.
 His braine is vnquiet, til al come to naught.
 His memorie pregnant, old ils to recite,
 His mind euer fixed, ech ill to requite.
 His mouth ful of venim, his lips out of frame,
 His toong a false witnes, his friend to defame.
 His eies be promoters, some trespas to spie,
 His eares be as spials, alarum to crie.
 His hands be as tyrants, reuenging each thing,
 His feet at thine elbow, as serpent to sting.
 His breast full of rancor, like canker to freat,
 His heart like a lion, his neighbor to eate.
 His gate like a sheepbiter, fleering aside,
 His looke like a coxcombe, vp puffed with pride.
 His face made of brasse, like a vice in a game,
I suppose (Vice) is a Term for one that cheats at play.
 His gesture like Davus, whom Terence doth name.
 His brag as Thersites, with elbowes abroad,
 His cheekes in his furie, shal swel like a tode.
 His colour like ashes, his cap in his eies,
 His nose in the aire, his snout in the skies.
 His promise to trust to, as slipperie as ice,
 His credit much like to the chance of the dice.
 His knowledge or skil, is in prating too much,
 His company shunned, and so be al such.
 His friendship is counterfet, seldome to trust,
 His doings vnluckie, and euer unjust.
 His fetch is to flatter, to get what he can,
 His purpose once gotten, a pin for thee than.

And now Gentlemen if ye had not enough, I hope you have enough for this Month.

AUGUST.

AUGUST.

Thy fallow once ended, go strike by and by,
both wheatland and barlie, and so let it lie :
And as ye haue leifure, go compasse the same,
when up ye do lay it, more fruitful to frame.

Try Fallowing is the third plowing of a Summer Fallow, which here he advifes also to strike or harrow, to tear up the Weeds, especially the Couch Grasse by the Roots; and then to dung the same, for many Weeds, especially this of Couch Grasse, will recover from a very small Root.

2 Get down with thy brakes, yer anie shewes do come,
that cattel the better, may pasture haue some :
In June and in August, as wel doth appeare,
'is best to mow brakes, of al times in the yeere.

Brakes (as I observ'd before) is their light Firing in *Norfolk*, (that is that wherewith they Bake and Brew) these should be cut in dry Weather, or before the Rains come for two Reasons, first, that they may wither and be hous'd soon, and that the common Cattle may get at the Grasse that grows under them, when the open Spaces are eaten bare. Why, *June* and *August* are the best Months to mow Brakes in; I take to be, because they are most usually mow'd in those Months, for they are extremely tender in their Infancy, and a very small Frost when they first peep up will send them back again, so that when they are forward, and have receiv'd no such Check, they are fit for mowing in *June*, and when they are backward, namely, after a frosty Spring, in *August*.

3 Pare saffron between the two S. Maries daies,
or set or go shift it, that knowest the waies :
What yeere shal I do it (more profit to yeeld)
the fourth in the garden, the third in the field.

The two *St. Mary's* here meant, I take to be the 22d of *July*, being the Festival of *St. Mary Magdalen*, and the 15th of *August*, on which Day the *Roman Church* commemorate an Assumption of the Blessed Virgin. The Paring here spoken of, I take to be the Taking up the Roots and transplanting them into fresh Ground, which our Author here advises to be at three Years End in the Field, and at four in the Garden; there is, however, Variety of Opinions in this Matter, some thinking *March*, some *Midsummer* the better Season. The Way of planting them is in Ranges made with a large Hoe, at four or five Inches Distance, and the Roots at two or three Inches Distance from each others.

- 4 In hauing but fortie foot, workmanly dight,
take saffron inough, for a lord and a knight:
Al winter time after, as practise doth teach,
what plot have ye better, for linnen to bleach.

This agrees well enough with what may be done, for after the first Crop, Saffron makes a very good Sward, whereon Linnen may lye hollow and bleach well enough.

- 5 Maids mustard seed gather, for being too ripe,
and weather it wel, yer ye give it a stripe:
Then dresse it, and lay it in sollar vp sweet,
least foistines make it, for table vnmeet.

Mustardseed is very apt to shed, and therefore must not stand until it is too ripe; it is best cut in a Morning when the Dew is yet on it, when dry, house it with a Sheet carried between two, with a Pole on each Side: When strip'd, (as our Author calls it) which is beating it upon a Hurdle or some other rough Thing, the Seed will come out; the light Seed will soon after appear white and thin, this must be well winnow'd off.

- 6 Good huswives in summer, wil save their own seeds,
against the next yeare, as occasion needs:
One seed for another, to make an exchange,
with fellowly neighbourhood, seemeth not strange.

This

This is meant of all Sorts of Garden Seeds, which our Author advises his Housewives to keep, and out of good Neighbourhood furnish one another with, for what greater Comfort can there be than to be able to oblige with a little. Now if this is not practis'd so much as it ought to be at present, all that our Author did, or I can do, is to recommend it.

- 7 Make sure of reapers, get haruest in hand,
the corne that is ripe, doth but shed as it stand :
Be thankful to God, for his benefit sent,
and willing to saue it, with earnest intent.

Corn doth not only shed when it stands too long, but grows harsh, and loses much of its Beauty. If when God lays a Blessing before us, we neglect accepting it, we certainly are ungrateful ; we should watch as well as pray.

- 8 To let out thy haruest, by great or by daie,
let this by experience, lead thee the waie :
By great wil deceiue thee, with lingring it out,
by day wil dispatch, and put al out of doubt.

Our Author is justly against letting Haruest by the great, for whoever does, will certainly find himself cheated or slighted ; he advises rather by the Day, but that is subject to great Inconveniences, if Men must be every Day look'd up. The best Way I take it, is what is now most in use, namely, to hire Men at Meat, Drink and Wages for the whole Haruest, then no Opportunity need be lost, and the Work will go roundly on. As to Provision (of which they will consume a great Quantity,) by looking out in time it may be made easy enough, a Cow or two, some fatted Crones (old Ewes) may be timely provided, so as to go a good Way in your Family, and if you have but Plenty, and Fat, provided it be sweet, your Guests will ask no further Questions ; for at this Time they do expect a full Diet, and he that keeps a plentiful House, shall have more Servants at Command another Year, than he that gives a Crown more in Wages, and pinches, neither shall his Work be so well done.

- 9 Grant haruest lord more, by a peny or two,
to cal on his fellowes, the better to doo :

Giue gloues to thy reapers, a larges to crie,
and daily to loiterers, haue a good eie.

He that is the Lord of the Haruest, is generally some stay'd sober working Man, who understands all Sorts of Haruest-Work. If he be of able Body, he commonly leads the Swarth in reaping and mowing. It is customary to give Gloves to Reapers, especially where the Wheat is thistly. As to crying a Larges, they need not be reminded of it in these our Days, whatever they were in our Author's Time.

10 Reap wel, scatter not, gather cleane that is shorn,
bind fast, shocke apace, haue an eie to thy corne :
Lode safe, carrie home, follow time being faire,
goue just in the barne, it is out of dispaire.

In this *Stanza*, in ten small Sentences our Author has describ'd all that is material in Haruest-Work, and of which (I think) there needs no Explanation, unless that a Goue is what in most Parts is call'd a Mow, which he advises to be kept true and upright, both for making the most of your Room, and keeping it from sliding.

11 With duly and truly, with harty good wil,
that God and his blessing, may dwel with thee stil:
Though parson neglecteth, his duty for this,
thanke thou thy Lord God, and giue euery man his.

Of the Tithe somewhat has been spoke in former Months, therefore the less will serve here. It is certain the Tithe is not the Farmer's; and withholding it is Cheating, and Cheating never thrives.

12 Corn tithed (fir parson) to gather to get,
and cause it on shocks, to be by and by set :
Not leauing it scattering, abroad on the ground,
nor long in the field, but away with it round.

If the Parson is willing to have his Tithe justly paid, it is but Reason he should justly receive it, and not let it stand on the Ground to perplex the Farmer, who dare not bring in his Hogs or Cattel until it is taken away.

13 To cart, gap and barne, set a guide to looke weeke,
and hoy out fir carter, the hog fro thy wheele:
Least greedy of feeding, in following art,
it noieth or perisheth, spight of thy hart.

This Guide is to take the fore Horfe by the Head, and lead him straight in, and may be done by the Boy or Girl who rake after the Cart. It is very proper to hinder overthrowing, and other Mischiefs. Hoying or hunting away the Hogs from under the Cart before it moves, is also very proper, lest the Wheel run over them.

14 In champion countrie, a pleasure they take,
to mow vp their hawme, for to brew and to bake:
And also it stands them, in stead of their thacke,
which being wel inned, they cannot wel lacke.

15 The hawme is the straw, of the wheat or the rie,
which once being reaped, they mow by and by:
For feare of destroying, with cattel or raine,
the sooner ye load it, more profit ye gaine.

This is very often practis'd, for this Stubble if left long enough after the Sickle, is excellent good Thatch, very good light Firing for Brewing and Baking, and making of Malt: But the taking it thus away, impoverishes the Land, and where it is used, is a Sign of great Scarcity of Firing.

16 The mowing of barlie, if barlie do stand,
is cheapest and best, for to rid out of hand:
Some mow it, and rake it, and sets it on cocks,
some mow it and binds it, and set it on shocks.

Barley is at present most frequently mow'd, altho' (in some of the Northern Parts) they continue to reap it, where Carts and Waggons are in use, it is set on Cocks, but where it must be carried on Horfe Backs, (as in *Devonshire*, or on Sledges, as in some Parts of *Northumberland*,) it is bound up.

17 Of barlie the longest and greenest ye find,
leau standing by dallops, til time ye do bind,
Then earlie in morning (while dew is thereon)
to making of bands, til the dew be al gone.

Dallops

Dallops are Tufts of Corn, such as are commonly seen where Dung Heaps have stood too long, or in shady Places; these he advises to let stand, and as occasion serves, cut them for Bands, where Bands are requir'd. Indeed these are commonly more empty ear'd, and if mix'd, apt to Mow-burn the rest, which they will not do when in Bands, and are besides most fit for that Use, by Reason of their Toughness and Length.

- 18 One spreadeth those bands, so in order to lie, as barlie (in swatches) may fil it thereby: Which gathered vp, with the rake and the hand, the follower after them, bindeth in hand.

Swatches are the same with Swarths.

- 19 Where barlie is raked (if dealing be true) the tenth of such raking, to parson is due: Where scattering of barlie, is seene to be much, there custome nor conscience, tything should grutch.

This alludes to the Custom of *Norfolk*, where the Parson takes his Tithe in the Swarth, the Farmer also clears the Swarths, and afterwards with a Drag-Rake, rakes his Ground all over; it is true, the Tithe of this is as due as the other, but then the Parson ought to allow him for his Labour.

- 20 Corne being had downe (any way ye allow) should wither as needeth, for burning in mow: Such skil appertaineth, to haruest man's art, and taken in time, is a husbandly part.

Mow-burnt-Corn is easily known, for it is not only redder than ordinary in the Hand, but the very Flower or Inside is turn'd yellow, and is neither good for Bread-Corn, Seed nor Malt, as having spent its Fermentative Quality; neither is it good for Horses, because it breeds the Botts; and Poultry will scarce touch it, therefore ought to be avoided as much as possible. By well withering the Corn before it is hous'd; hous'd I say, because it is much more apt to Mow-burn in a House or Barn, than in a Stack; some prescribe leaving a Hole or Well in the Middle of the Mow, which may be done by keeping therein

therein a Basket or Barrel, and raising it as the Mow increases, but no Remedy is so proper as the Prevention of the Disease.

- 21 No turning of peason, til carriage ye make,
nor turne in no more, then ye mind for to take :
Least beaten with shewers, so turned to drie,
by turning and tossing, they shed as they lie.

Pease ought to be turn'd a little before loaden, to dry that Side that hath lain next the Ground ; and they of all Corn or Pulse contract most Moisture : But it does not follow they must not be turn'd until then, and indeed they require turning once if not more, or one half of them will go green into the Barn.

- 22 If weather be faire, and tidie thy graine,
make speedilie carriage, for feare of a raine :
For tempest and showers, deceiueh amenie,
and lingring lubbers, loose many a penie.

Tidy, is an old Word signifying neat, proper, or in Season ; from the Word Tide.

- 23 In gouing at haruest, learne skilfullie how,
each graine for to laie, by it self on a mow :
Seed barlie the purest, goue out of the waie,
al other nigh hand, goue as just as ye may.

It is best to keep many Goves or Mows going at the same time, that you may sort your Corn, and thresh that first that soonest needs threshing ; your best Barley and best inned, being what you reserue for Seed, may lie farthest in, both because it comes last, and is out of the Malt Man's Reach, who, if he catches a Sample of it, will be apt to run down that which is worse.

- 24 Stacke pease upon houel, abroad in the yard,
to couer it quicklie, let owner regard :
Least doue and the cadow, there finding a smacke,
with ill stormie weather, do perish thy stacke.

An old Sail is an excellent Thing for this Purpose ; which may be laid over them all the Way they rise, and until you can thatch them.

25 Corne carried, let such as be poore go and glean,
and after thy cattel, to mouth it vp cleane :
Then spare it for rowen, til Michel be past,
to lengthen thy dairie, no better thou hast.

The Poor are the Sheep of God's Pasture, and therefore ought to be fed before the Farmer's; and this of gleaning, God was pleased to entitle them unto in the Levitical Law. But then these Poor must be the real poor, that is, such ancient People, Boys and Girls that cannot assist in Harveft Works, or at least that are not required, and I believe it is no Sin for a Farmer to turn that Gleaner out of his Ground, who is able and refuses other Work. After the Gleaner, come the Horses and Hogs, and after them our Author well advises, that it be kept up till after *Michaelmas*, that the Corn that is left on the Ground may sprout into Green. This is an excellent Food for Cows, and lengthens your Dairy; whereas if you let them in after the Gleaner, what Corn they lick up, serves but to dry them.

26 In haruest time haruest folke, seruants and al,
should make altogether, good cheere in the hal:
And fil out the blacke bol, of bleith to their song,
and let them be merrie, al haruest time long.

In brewing for Harveft, and in Harveft, make three Sorts of Beer, the first Wort or Strongest, you may put by for your own Use, the second is what is called best Beer, whereof each Man ought to have a Pint in the Morning before he goes to Work, and as much at Night as soon as he comes in. If they work any thing extraordinary, (as in *Norfolk* they often do, during the Moon-shine) their Share must be more; Small Beer they must also have Plenty in the Field.

27 Once ended thy haruest, let none be begilde,
please such as did please thee, man, woman and child:
Thus doing, with alwaie such helpe as they can,
thou winnest the praise, of the labouring man.

This the poor Labourer thinks crowns all, a good Supper must be provided, and every one that did any thing towards the Inning, must now have some Reward, as Ribbons, Laces, Rows of Pins to Boys and Girls, if never so small for their

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Encouragement, and to be sure Plumb-pudding. The Men must now have some better than best Drink, which with a little Tobacco, and their screaming for their Largeesses, their Business will soon be done. But

28 Now look vp to Godward, let toong neuer cease,
in thanking of him, for his mightie increase :

Let the true Christian shew his Joy in Praises and good Deeds, to that great God let our Praises be, who rewards like himself, who accounts with us for every the least Minute of Diligence and Industry, often times more than a Hundred Fold. Let our Deeds be to our fellow Creature without grudging, for as he is himself a bountifull Giver, he loves a chearful one. Wherein I conclude with my Author.

Accept my good wil, for a proof go and trie,
the better thou thriuest, the gladder am I.

Works after HARVEST.

29 Now carrie out compas, when haruest is done,
where barlie thou sowest, my champion sonne :
Or lay it on heape, in the field as ye may,
til carriage be faire, to haue it away.

For it is fitting they empty their Yards before they begin to thresh again; their Cattle are in good Plight, and have little else to do, and they may go several Ways to their Lands, which they cannot at another time.

30 Whose compas is rotten, and carried in time,
and spread as it should be, thrifts ladder may clime :
Whose compas is paltrie, and carried too late,
such husbandrie vseth, that many do hate.

Compass we know is Dung, now without doubt that which is rotten is best; and the sooner in the Field the better.

31 Yer winter preuenteth, while weather is good,
for galling of pasture, get home with thy wood :
And carrie out grauel, to fil vp a hole,
both timber and furzin, the turfe and the cole.

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There are a Sort of Wheels call'd Dredge Wheels, that in indifferent Weather will go over a Meadow without much hurting it; but they are heavy and low, and so load the Carriage, and therefore dry Weather is best both for your Ground and your Horses, especially if the Carriage be heavy, as Wood, Gravel, Timber, and Coal commonly is.

32 House charcole and sedge, chip and cole of the land, pile tall wood and billet, stack all that hath band: Blocks, roots, pole and bough, set upright to the thetch, the neerer more handsome, in winter to fetch.

This is to put Things, especially his Fire Wood, so about him, as to lie most convenient for his Use; what will pile, pile, what will not, lay it under the Wall of the House upright round some Tree or Pole, &c.

33 In stacking of bauen, and piling of logs, make vnder thy bauen, a houel for hogs: And warmly inclose it, al sauing the mouth, and that to stand open, and ful to the south.

This is a Winter Lodging for your Hog, who in the Summer requires cool and shade, but in the Winter time extreamly dreads the *North* and *East* Winds; from which this is not only a good Fence, but he has also all the Warmth the Weather can afford.

34 Once haruest dispatched, get wenches and boies, and into thy barne, before al other toies: Choised seed to be picked, and trimly wel fide, for seed may no longer, from threshing abide.

This Custom of picking out of the Sheaves all smutty Corn may be saved where the Seed was well brin'd; for that takes off all the poor thin Corn which produces the smutty Ears; however, it may be worth the while to employ Children in picking it still, if it be but to take out the Cockle. Fying is cleaning.

35 Get seed aforehand, in a readines had, or better prouide, if thine owne be too bad:

Be careful of seed, or else such as ye sowe,
be sure at haruest, to reape or to mow.

Change of Seed is one of the best Pieces of Husbandry, and in divers Farms a Man may have Variety of Ground and good Change of his own.

36 When haruest is ended, take shipping or ride,
ling, salt fish and herring, for Lent to provide:
To buie it at first, as it cometh to rode,
shal pay for thy charges, thou spendest abroad.

This Piece of Husbandry (except in some few Houses) is now out of Doors, the more is the Pity; but because I have spoke somewhat of it before, I shal only here add, that our Author was a sound Reformed, as may be seen by his Belief and other Works of his; yet neither did he nor the reform'd Church in his Days, reject the keeping of Lent, and Days of Abstinence, as Popish. There is a good Use as well as an Abuse to be made of them.

37 Choose skilfully saltfish, not burnt at the stone,
buy such as be good, or else let it alone:
Get home that is bought, and go stacke it up drie
with pease straw betweene it, the safer to lie.

By burnt to the Stone, I understand such Fish as is dry'd on the Beach in too hot Weather, whereby it loses its Whiteness, and is apt to have a rank Smell, Garlickly some modestly call it, for Fish dries best in windy Weather. If packt in Pease Straw, it lies hollow from each other, and consequently keeps cool.

38 Yer euer ye journey, cause seruant with speed,
to compasse thy barlie land, where it is need:
One aker wel compassed, passeth some three,
thy barne shal at haruest, declare it to thee.

I should think his Employment after his Dung is carried into the Field, should be to get his Winter Corn-Land ready; but if his Dung be upon his Land, it is best to spread it as soon as he can.

- 39 This lesson is learned, by riding about,
the prizes of vittels, the yeare throughout:
Both what to be selling, and what to refrain,
and what to be buying, and bring in again.

This needs no Comment, and our Farmers now a Days know as well how to practise it as they did in our Author's Time; and who can blame them for endeavouring to make the best of what they have.

- 40 Though buying and selling, doth wonderful wel,
to such as haue skil, how to buie and to sel:
Yet chopping and changing, I cannot commend,
with theef of his marrow, for fear of il end.

Because it is the common Practice of all Thieves; and two Horse-Stealers who live a hundred Miles from each other, shall chop and change their stolen Goods unpunish'd for a long Time.

- 41 The rich in his bargaining, needs not be taught,
of buier and seller, ful far is he fought:
Yet herein consisteth, a part of my text,
who buieth at first hand, and who at the next.

- 42 At first hand he buieth, that paieth al downe,
at second that hath not, so much in the towne:
At third hand he buieth, that buieth of trust,
at his hand who buieth, shal pay for his lust.

There are three Sorts of buying, in which there is a very great Difference; and indeed it is but reasonable there should be so, for besides the Interest, there is a very great Difference between running after a Debtor to get one's Money, and having it in one's Pocket and looking out for another Bargain. For

- 43 As oft as ye bargaine, for better or worse,
to buie it the cheaper, haue chinks in thy purse:
Tough kept is commended, yet credit to keepe,
is pay and dispatch him, yer euer ye sleepe.

The Difference is, the Chapmen follow the ready Money Man, and they who go upon Trust, are faine to run after the
Chap-

Chapmen; and that makes good what our Author said in Stanza 41. That the rich Man is sought after both by Buyer and Seller.

- 44 Be mindful abroad, of a Michaelmas spring,
for thereon dependeth, a husbandly thing:
Though some haue a pleasure, with hauke vpon hand,
good husbands get treasure, to purchase their land.

The *Michaelmas* Spring here meant, I take to be the freshening and managing your Pasture Ground so to your Advantage, that you may have wherewithal to keep your Cattle upon, as long as they will thrive upon it; of which there is a considerable Difference in Ground, particularly in low Grounds; some feeding much longer than others, he may also have Regard in it to the sowing of Winter-Corn, for ought I know.

- 45 Thy market dispatched, turne home againe round,
least gaping for peny, thou loosest a pound:
Provide for thy wife, or else looke to be shent,
good milchcow for winter, another for Lent.

The Market here spoken of, is in the Farmer's Travels mention'd before, which he advises not to be too long, and to drive home a Couple of Winter milch Cows, the one somewhat later than the other. These he may easily procure, for after Grasse is gone, a Winter Milch Cow is enough to ruin a poor Man.

- 46 In travelling homeward, baie fortie good crones,
and fat up the bodies, of such feelie bones:
Leaue milking, and drie vp old mullie thy cow,
the crooked and aged, to fattening put now.

Crones, I have said before are such Ewes whose Teeth are worn down, so that they can no longer live in their Sheep Walk, these are sometimes not very old, and when put into good Pasture will thrive exceedingly, and are at this Time often fold very cheap. I have known good ones at 1 s. 10 d. a Piece, with each a Lamb in her Belly; and these pay their Lamb, their Fleece and their Flesh; for their Food before Harvest next. It is now a good Time to dry up your old Cattle, and with Care they will be tolerable good *Christmas* Beef.

- 47 At Bartilmewtide, or at Sturbridge faire,
 buie that as is needful, thy house to repaire:
 Then sel to thy profit, both butter and cheese,
 who buieth it sooner, the more he shall leese.

This alludes to *Norfolk*, *Suffolk* and *Essex*, where this Fair and some others stock the Country with Clothes, and all other Household Necessaries; and they again, sell their Butter and Cheese, and whatever else remains on their Hands; nay, there the Shopkeepers supply themselves with divers Sorts of Commodities.

- 48 If hops do look brownish, then are ye too slow,
 if longer ye suffer, those hops for to grow:
 Now sooner ye gather, more profit is found,
 if weather be faire, and deaw of the ground.

The Colour of the Hop, is that which makes it valuable in the Eyes of a great many People, and indeed a glorious Colour is a Beauty; however, a little of it may be abated, provided it be made up with innate Goodness. Now, a Hop a little brownish, has not lost much, nay, is often better than the over-bright; however, there is a mean, which our Brewers know very well how to chuse.

- 49 Not breake off, but cut off, from hop the hop string,
 leaue growing a little, againe for to spring:
 Whose hil about pared, and therewith new clad,
 shal nourish more sets, against March to be had.

I take this Caution to be of no great Value; for Hops are more easily cut, than broken off, especially when on the Pole. The paring the Hill about, and turning the Grasse inwards, cherishes and arms the Root against the ensuing Cold, and is of very good Use.

- 50 Hop hillocke discharged, of every let,
 see then without breaking, ech pole ye out get:
 Which being intangled, aboue in the tops,
 go carrie to such, as are plucking of hops.

51 Take

- 51 Take soutage or haire (that couers the kel) :
 fet like to a manger, and fastened wel :
 With poles upon crotches, as hie as the brest,
 for sauing and riddance, is husbandry best.

This is for gathering them, which he advises to be without breaking the Poles, and then directs them to be picked, either upon Soutage, which is the Cloth they are generally packt in, or the Hair Cloth that covers the Kiln. There are a Sort of Troughs now much in Use, better than either.

- 52 Hops had, the hop poles that are likelie preferue,
 (from breaking and rotting) againe for to serue :
 And plant ye with alders, or willowes a plot,
 where yeerely as needeth, mo poles may be got.

Ash, Beech and Birch, and some Oak too, are now frequently used for Poles.

- 53 Some skilfullie drieth, their hops on a kel,
 and some on a sollar, oft turning them wel :
 Kel dride wil abide, foule weather and faire,
 where drying and lying, in lost doo despaire.

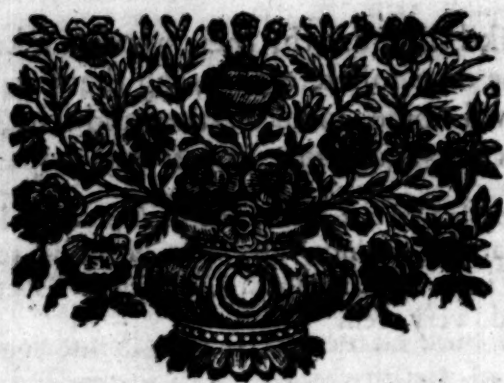
Kell-drying is without Doubt the most practicable Way, because done at a Certainty, and may be made ready to any Market in View. But for small Quantities, Sollar or Garret drying may do very well.

- 54 Some close them up drie, in a hogshhead or fat,
 yet canuas or soutage, is better then that :
 By drying and lying, they quickly be spilt,
 thus much haue I shewed, do now as thou wilt.

And I have only thus much more to shew, namely, that if Hops are at Seven Pounds the Hundred, your Soutage stands you in one Shilling and three Pence the Pound, and if they us'd to pack in Canvas in our Author's Days, methinks they might also now, when a Price will afford it ; for the closer they are packt, the longer they keep their Strength ; and therefore in some Cases they may be put up in Cask, especially for private Use. And now

55 Old farmer is forced, long August to make,
 his goods at more leifure, away for to take:
 New farmer thinketh, each hower a day,
 vntil the old farmer, be packing away.

Thus endeth and holdeth our August's Husbandry till Michaelmas-Eve.



SEPTEMBER.

SEPTEMBER.

OUR Author justly begins his Farmer's Year with this Month, for now it is that the old Tenant goes out, and the new one enters, now is the Ground clearest, the Corn is off, and the Grasse may be eaten down by this time, as

1 At Michaelmas lightly new farmer comes in,
new husbandrie forceth, him now to begin :
Old farmer stil taking, the time to him giuen,
makes August to last, vnto Michaelmas euen.

So that this Month or the Observations on it, are supposed not to begin until *Michaelmas* Even, that is, when a Farmer first comes into a new Farm. But seeing in some Farms they are obliged to Summer-fallow their Grounds with their Neighbours, it is unreasonable that the new Farmer should lose the Benefit of that Ground for that Year, which he must do, unless he can Summer-fallow when others do, and therefore

2 New farmer may enter (as champions say)
on al that is fallow, at Lent lady day :
In woodland olde farmer, to that will not yeeld,
for losing of pasture, and feed of his field.

But this and all other Conveniences are best provided for by Lease, for it is but a sorry Plea to plead Custom against one that is in Possession, and can make what Customs he pleases.

3 Prouide against Michelmas, bargaine to make,
for farmer to giue ouer, to keepe or to take :
In doing of either, let wit beare a stroke,
for buying or selling, of a pig in a poke.

A sure Bargain hinders all Contention, and as no Body can blame a Farmer for using all his Wit and Cunning in taking a Farm, so neither ought a Gentleman be blam'd for using all his in the letting it ; and it is very rare that either of
Q them

them get any thing by ambiguous Terms, which serve for nothing but to nourish Strife, and in the End defraud both. Here the Author reckons up twelve Properties of a good Farm, which are

- 4 Good farme and wel stored, good housing and drie, good corne and good dairie, good market and nie: Good shepherd, good tilman, good Jack and good Gill, makes husband and hufwife, their coffers to fil.

A good Farm is such a one as bears a due Proportion between the Whole and its Parts; as if it be a Corn Farm, that it have a due Proportion of Meadow and Pasture, that its Sheep-walk be not under stinted, that Commonage lie convenient, that Dung, Chalk, or Marle may be had; that there be no Scarcity of Firing, Plow-boot and Cart-boot, (Wood to mend Plow and Cart) and that the Rent be not over dear.

- 5 Let pasture be stored, and fensed about, and tillage set forward, as needeth without: Before ye do open your purse to begin, with any thing doing, for fansie within.

This is no more than to take care, first of your Grounds, then of your Dwelling, to shew that the one is more material than the other, and that the latter may have another time, but a delay in the former is more difficult, if not impossible to retrieve; however, they are both needful.

- 6 No floring of pasture, with baggagely tit, with ragged, with aged, and euil at hit: Let carren and barren, be shifted away, for best is the best, whatsoeuer ye pay.

If you do, assure yourself, your Stock will be sinking; and Old certainly grows Older, and for the most part little degenerates to less. If they should thrive with you, it is a question whether they will pay their Pasture, considering how long you must keep them, and how much you are behind the Market.

7 Horfe, oxen, plough, tumbrel, cart, waggon and wain,

the lighter and stronger, the greater thy gaine :
The soile and thy seed, the sheafe and the purse,
the lighter in substance, for profit the wurse.

The Lightness here spoken of, is a Cleaverlines, a proportionate Strength; for a Horfe or an Ox is neither so healthy or fit for Service when he is loaden with a Mass of Flesh, as when he is between both, in what the Farmers call good Tune. Neither is it a great Thickness of Timber that makes any thing strong, especially such Things as are to be in motion, as a Plough, Cart, Waggon, &c. but a due and neat Compactness, wherein every thing is made fit for the Work it is design'd for, and not burthen'd with its own Weight. But the Soil, Seed, Sheaf and Purse our Author excepts, altho' the Soil and Purse may be too heavy if they contain Matter of little Value.

8 To borrow to daie, and to morrow to mis,
for lender or borrower, noiance it is :
Then haue of thine owne, without lending vnspilt,
what followeth needful here learn if thou wilt.

This is a Sort of a Preface to the husbandly Furniture which follows, with which he advises every Farmer to provide himself, and not go a borrowing when he should be using.

A Digression to Husbandly Furniture.

1 Barne locked, gose ladder, short pitchfork and long, staile, strawforke and rake, with a fan that is strong :
Wing, cartnaue and bushel, peck, strike ready at hand,
get casting shouel, broom, and a sacke with a band.

He begins with the Barn Utenfils, of which many are so well known they need no Description, however, the repeating them is a good Remembrancer; as for Example, Barn lock'd, I take to mean that the Farmer should see carefully to the locking up his Barns, which if he does not, he shall find an Out-let, that he may be sensible of before he has paid his Rent. What if his own Horses are the Receivers, the Theft is not the less, but sometimes the more; for what they get

that Way, the Servant will have out of them again in hurrying. AGofe is what, in some Places, is called aMow, to which there belong a Ladder for the Thresher to get up and throw down the Corn, a short Pitchfork for that Use, and a long one to pitch up the Straw when his Straw-mow grows high; a Strawfork and Rake to turn the Straw off from the thresh'd Corn, a Fan and Wing to clean it, which by the way is much better than mere winnowing with a Wind-winch) as giving the Corn a brighter Colour, and freeing it from Dust. A Cart Nave I suppose is to stand up upon when they Wind-winnow; a casting Shovel is such as Malt-men use, and serves to cast Wheat or Beans the Length of the Floor; and thus Seed-wheat should be serv'd, for the best Grains fly farthest, and may be thus separated from the lighter.

- 2 A stable wel planked, with key and a locke,
wals strongly wel lined, to beare off a knock :
A racke and a manger, good litter and haie,
sweet chaffe, and some prouender euery day.

Planking of Stables is by some not so well approved on as pitching, however, the meaning here is, that the Horse lye dry and sweet, as to his making sweet Chaff a Stable Utensil. It is very useful and proper to mix Chaff with the Oats the Farmer gives his labouring Horses, it not only fills and affords a good and dry Nourishment, but the Horse eats the Oats mix'd with them the better; for finding them of better Taste than the Chaff, he strives to chew them, which for greediness, when he has clear Oats he does not, but swallows many whole.

- 3 A pitchforke, a doongforke, seeue, skep and a bin,
a broome and a paile, to put water therein :
A handbarrow, wheelebarrow, shouel and spade,
a currie combe, maine comb, and whip for a jade.

A Skep is a Sort of Basket, narrow at the Bottom and wide at the Top, to fetch Corn in. A Bin is a small enclosed Place in some Corner, to put Oats, Chaff or Beans.

- 4 A buttrice and pingers, a hammer and naile,
an apron and sizers, for head and for taile :
Whole bridle and saddle, whit lether and nal,
with collars and harneis, for thiller and al.

A Buttrice

A Buttrice is what the Farriers pare Horses Hoofs withal, which he would have his Farmer provided with, as well as with Pincers, Hammer, Nails and Apron, that he may not be forced to go to a Farrier for every small Matter. A Nail is an Awl such as Collar-makers use, which he would also have his Farmer provided with, as well as some other Tools of that Trade, particularly Whit-Leather to mend his Collars and Harness when there is any Occasion.

- 5 A panel and wanty, packfaddle and ped,
with line to fetch litter, and halters for hed:
With crotchets and pins, to hang trinkets thereon,
and stable fast chained, that nothing be gon.

A Pannel and Ped have this Difference, the one is much shorter than the other, and raised before and behind, and serves for small Burdens, as the Maid to Market with her Butter, the Boy to Mill. The other is longer, and made for Burdens of Corn, and is most in use, where Wains and Carts cannot travel; these are fastned with a Leathern Gird, called a Wantye. A Packfaddle is not so frequently found among Farmers as formerly, except in the Northern Parts, where it is used to carry Wooll. A Chain for a Stable is of good Use, both to baulk a Thief, who when he has broke open your Door, will be ne'er the nearer, and to keep your Horses in whilst you are harnessing them, and receive Light from the Door.

- 6 Strong exeltreed cart, that is clouted and shod,
cart ladder and wimble, with perfer and pod:
Wheele ladder for haruest, light pitchforke and tough,
shaue, whiplash wel knotted and cartrope inough.

Clouting a Wheel is arming the Axle-tree with Iron Plates, to keep it from wearing. Shod is arming the Fellows with Iron Stakes, or a Tire as some call it on the outward Circumference of the Wheel. Cart Ladders and Wheel Ladders are Frames on the Sides and Tail, to support light Loads, as Hay, &c. A Pod I take to be a Box, or some old Leather Bottle nail'd to the Side of the Cart, to hold the Percer, Wimble and Nails and Hammer if need be, altho' that is often a Draught Pin for the Thiller or hindmost Horse. Shaving a Whiplash, is shaving of a rough Piece of Whitleather thin, for the Lash of a Cart-Whip.

7 Then sacks, whereof every one holdeth a coome,
 a pulling hooke handsome, for bushes and broome;
 Light tumbrel, and doong crone, for easing fir wag,
 shouel, pikax, and mattocke, with bottle and bag.

A Coome is four Bushels, and forty Bushels is a Load of Wheat. His pulling Hook is a barbed Iron, by the Help of which, short Bushes, Broom, Brakes, and other light Firing may be pull'd out of the Stack without hurting the Hands. A Tumbrel is a Dung Cart, and sometimes used for other Uses. A Dung Crone is a Dung Hook, wherewith Dung is unloaden.

8 A short saw, and long saw, to cut a two logs,
 an axe and an ads, to make troffe for thy hogs:
 A dower court beetle, and wedges with steele,
 strong lever to raise vp, the blocke from the wheele.

A Nads is an Adz, used by Carpenters to even flooring, and may also serve very well to hollow a Hog-Trough. A *Dower-Court Beetle*, I suppose signifies a very large Beetle, alluding to the Rood of *Dover*, which was very large and remarkable in our Author's Time; or from the Proverb yet in use, (*A Dover Court*, all Speakers and no Hearers,) signifying a great Noise, which a great Beetle may be suppos'd to make.

9 A grindstone, a whetstone, a hatchet and bill,
 with hammer and English naile, sorted with skil:
 A frower of iron, for cleauing of lath,
 with rol for a sawpit, good husbandry hath.

Here are some more odd Things, amongst which the most remarkable is a Frower of Iron, for cleaving of Lath. Now this Lath must be for the Farmer's own Use, for it is not to be suppos'd that the Landlords of those Days allow'd the Tenants to sell their Timber, whether converted into Lath or otherwise; so that I take it to be for the Sides of their Carts, Waggons or Waines, which still in some Places is in Use, and perhaps for Airings of their Barns, &c. *N.B.* Because it is here called a Lath, it follows not that it was no thicker than our ordinary Lath is at present, for all that is split may go under that Denomination, and perhaps Pales are hereby meant also.

10 Two ploughs and a plow cheine, 2 culters, 3 shares, with groundclouts and sideclouts, for soil that sow tares:

With oxbowes, and oxyokes, with other things mo, for oخته and horse teeme, in plough for to go.

As to two Ploughs they may be necessary, because it is very likely the same Farm may require two Sorts, namely, a Wheel-Plough for Stony, and a Swing Plough for Clay; but why three Shares I know not. Ground and side Clouts may be made of old Streaks of Wheels, which ought carefully to be saved for this and other Purposes, as indeed every Thing ought so to be, that it is probable will be of any Use.

11 A plough beetle, plough staffe, to further the plow, great clod to asunder, that breaketh so rough:

A sled for a plough, and another for blocks, for chimney in winter, to burne vp their docks.

Breaking of Clods after the Plough, here we find of ancient Use; it is Pity it is not continued, for that will break them when new turn'd up, which must sometimes lie a long Time to mellow with the Weather.

12 Sedge collars for plough horse, for lightnes of neck, good feed, and good sower, and also seed pecke:

Strong oxen and horses, wel shod and wel clad, wel meated and vsed, for making thee sad.

Sedge Collars are by much the lightest and coolest, indeed not so comely as those of Wadmus, but will serve a good Team well enough to go to plough with. Well clad is here brought in for Rhime sake, and signifies in good Tune or good Heart; not that Plough Horses should be kept in Horse Cloths.

13 A barlie rake toothed, with iron and steele, like paire of harrowes, and roller doth weele:

A sling for a mother, a bow for a boy, a whip for a carter, is hoi de la roy.

This Sort of Barley Rake is still us'd in *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, and is dragg'd by a lusty Fellow all over the Ground, after the Cocks

Cocks are taken off, and gathers a great deal better than a hand Rake, if the Ground has been well roll'd. A Mother or Mather is a young Wench, for whom our Author thinks a Sling more proper than a Bow, which he assigns the Boy. These were made Use of for driving away Crows from the Corn, and which perhaps is the Reason why Bows came to be so frequent at *Bartholomew Fair*.

- 14 A brush sith, and grasse sith, with rife to stand,
a cradle for barlie, with rubstone and sand:
Sharpe sickle and weeding hooke, hay, forke and rake,
a meake for the pease, and to swing up the brake.

A Brush Scythe I take to be an old Scythe to cut up Weeds, as Nettles, Hemlock, &c. Some use a wooden Scythe to kill Fern, and the Weed call'd Kedlack or Cadlake, when they grow among Corn. The brushing of their Tops hurts not the Corn at all, and they die a good Way after the Scythe, so that the Corn soon overshoots them. A Rife or Ruffe is no more than a bent Stick standing on the Butt of a Scythe Handle, by which the Corn is struck together in Rows. A Cradle is a three forked Instrument of Wood, on which the Corn is caught as it falls from the Sithe, and laid more regularly than otherwise it would be. This lies very heavy on the Hand, and therefore much disused; however, for ought I know, it might save Abundance of Labour in our Northern Parts, where they reap their Barley, Oats and Bigg. A Meath is a Hook at the End of a Handle five Feet long, with which, formerly Pease were cut, but now left off, and a short Sithe used for the most Part.

- 15 Short rakes for to gather vp, barley to bind,
and greater to rake up, such leavings behind;
A rake for to rake up, the fitches that lie,
a pike for to pike them up, handsome to drie.

The short Rake is well known, of the long Rake has been Mention enough already, which for Barley may have wooden Teeth, but the Rake to rake up the Fitches that lie, is the Iron-tooth'd Rake before-mentioned, which tears away what has been left uncut behind. A Pike is no other than a Pitchfork, with three Tines, such as Barley, Oats, &c. are generally cock'd with.

16 A skuttle or skreine, to rid soile fro the corne,
and sharing sheeres ready, for sheepe to be shorne :
A forke and a hooke, to be tampring in clay,
a lath, hammer, a trowel, a hod or a traie.

A Scuttle is the same as a Skep, altho' this may be supposed
a larger one than that of the Stable. The Fork and Hook to
be tempering Clay, are a three tin'd Fork, the same with a
Dung Fork, and the Hook what he call'd before a Crone,
their Use is to mix Straw Loam, or Clay for Loam Walls,
for which also is the Lath, Hammer, Trowel and Hod.

17 Strong yoke for a hog, with twitcher and rings,
with tar in a tarpot, for dangerous things :
A sheep marke, a tar kettle, little or mitch,
two pottles of tarre, to a pottle of pitch.

Twitchers are a Sort of great Plyers to clinch the Hog-ring
withal. Tar is the Husband-man's Ointment, which he ap-
plies outwardly to all Wounds of Sheep and Hogs, and some-
times gives it inwardly. Two Pints of Tar to a Pound of
Pitch is the Composition still kept up for Sheep-Marks.

18 Long ladder to hang, all along by the wal,
to reach for a need, to the top of a hall :
Beam, scales, with the weights that be sealed and true,
sharp moulsphear with barbs, that the moul be so rue.

19 Sharp cutting spade, for the deviding of mow,
with skuppat and skauel, the marshmen allow :
A sickle to cut with, a didall and crome,
for draining of ditches, that noies thee at home.

A Skuppat is a Sort of Scoop or hollow Shovel, in Use with
Merth-Men, to through out Water or thin Mud out of
Ditches. A Skavel is a Sort of Spade about four Inches wide
at the Bottom, and eight Inches deep, to cut Earth out of
the Solid when new Ditches are made, and where the Throw
is any thing considerable. The Sickle here spoken of is a
Hook at the End of a 10 or 12 Foot Pole, to cut Weeds at
the Bottom of a Drain. A Didal is a triangular Spade, as
sharp as a Knife ; excellent to bunk Ditches where the Earth is

light and pefter'd with a sedgy Weed, Workmen call it a Dag-prick. A Crome is like a Dung-rake, with a long Handle, to pull Weeds out of a Drain after they are cut.

20 A claue stocke, a rabbet stocke, carpenters craue, and seasoned timber, for pinwood to haue:

A jacke for to saw upon, fewel for fire, for sparing of firewood, and sticks for the mire.

21 Soles, fetters and shackles, with horsflock and pad, a cow house for winter, so meet to be had:

A stie for a bore, and a hogscote for hog, a roost for thy hens, and a couch for thy dog

I suppose the Soles here mention'd, are Soles for Shoes, which he would have every Farmer have in readines, to sell them to his Servants when they want them; for in many Countries the most Part of the Servants are handy enough to put them on themselves, at least, they were in our Author's Time. The rest is easy, and

Here endeth Husbandly Furniture.

9 Thresh seed, and to fanning, September doth crie, get plough to the field, and be sowing of rie:

To harrow the ridges, yer ever ye strike, is one peece of husbandry, Suffolk doth like.

Last Year's Corn will grow, but is longer coming up, more apt to burst; and (because more die in the Ground) requires more Seed than new, so that without doubt new Seed is the best; also because if thresh'd before it has thoroughly sweated in the Mow, the thin Corn will stay in the Ear, and none but the best Corn come out. Hence some slash their Wheat and Rye Sheaves upon a Huddle, for Seed-striking is the last plowing before sowing, when sowed above Furrow, and if the Ground be cloddy, to be sure it is good to break them.

10 Sow timely thy white wheat, sowe rie in the dust, let seed haue hir longing, let soil haue her lust:

Let rie be partaker of Michelmas spring, to bear out the hardnes, that winter doth bring.

Let

Let them be out of the Milk before the Frost come, if possible, and have a full threaded Root, and they will take little harm : unless the ensuing Frosts are very black and hard indeed.

- 11 Some mixeth to miller, the rie with the wheat,
Tems lose on his table, to haue for to eat :
But sowe it not mixed, to grow so on land,
least rie tarry wheat, til it shed as it stand.

Tems Bread is that out of which the coarser Bran is taken, and is somewhat finer than ordinary Farmers use. This may be very good, altho' some Rye be mix'd with it, nay, to most Palates it is more grateful than Wheat alone ; because it retains a Moisture, so that Wheat and Rye mix very well in Bread. But our Author is by no Means to have them mix'd in Seed, altho' some Sort does pretty well, as

- 12 If soil do desire, to haue rie with the wheat,
by growing together, for safetie more great,
Let white wheat be tone, be it deere be it cheap,
the sooner to ripe, for the sickle to reape.

Because White Wheat will grow on a lighter Mould than Red Wheat.

- 13 Though beans be in sowing, but scattered in,
yet wheat, rie, and peason, I loue not too thin :
Sow barlie and dredge, with a plentiful hand,
least weed stead of seed, ouergroweth thy land.

Beans are a strong Pulse, and have a broad Leaf, with which they drip the Weeds more than either Wheat, Rye or Pease ; however, in this the Nature of the Ground, and what it is able to bear, is to be considered ; and notwithstanding their Strength, Beans thrive best when weeded, either with the Hoe or Hand, as doth all other Corn. Dredge is a Mixture of Oats and Barley, now very little sown.

- 14 No sooner a sowing, but out by and by,
with mother or boy, that alarum can cry :
And let them be armed, with sling or with bow,
to skare away pidgeon, the rook and the crow.

And Reason good, for these lawless Thieves are cherish'd in such Numbers, that they are one of the Farmer's greatest Plagues: I have heard, modestly computed, that a Pair of Pidgeons will starve on a Quarter of Corn in a Year, and the Rook watches the first Sprouting of the Corn more nicely than the Farmer can.

15 Seed sowne, draw a furrow, the water to draine, and dike by such ends, as in harmes do remaine: For driuing of cattel, or rousing that way, which being preuented, ye hinder the pray.

A Water-furrow runs cross the Ridges most commonly, and is always made in the lowest Part of the Land. The Dyking up Ends of Common-Field-Land against the Highways, will do somewhat where there is no other Means to fence your Ground, but it is a very weak Defence.

16 Saint Michel doth bid thee, amend the marsh wal, the brecke and the crabhole, the foreland and al: One noble in season, bestowed thereon, may saue thee a hundred, yer winter be gon.

A Marsh-wall is a Sea-bank, made with a considerable Slope to Sea-ward, which is called a Break, or Breck; it is faced with Turf, which sometimes is worn by the Sea, or Holes made in it by Crabs, &c. The Foreland is a Piece of Land that lies from the Foot of the Bank to Seaward, and must be well look'd after, that it wear not away, or come too near the Bank (as the Workmen term it) and this before *Michaelmas*, for the Tides near the Autumnal *Equinox* are most outrageous.

17 Now geld with the gelder, the ram and the bul, few ponds, amend dams, and sell webster thy wull: Out fruit go and gather, but not in the deaw, with crab and the walnut, for fear of a shrew.

The Nights are now moderately cold, and Beasts in pretty good Heart, and Leaping-time over, makes it the best time to geld in. All Fruit intended to be kept, must be gathered dry; and Walnuts no less than any other, for if their outward Husk rot, the Nutshel will be black.

18 The moone in the wane, gather fruit for to last,
but winter fruit gather when Michel is past :
Though michers that love not, to buy nor to craue,
make some gather sooner, else few for to have.

As to any Astrological Observation why Fruit should last that is gathered in the Wane of the Moon, I leave it to the more Learned: But this I know, that at this Time of the Year, after the Wane, the Fore-parts of the Nights are dark, and the Mornings Moonshine; of this perhaps the Michers, as our Author calls Thieves, may take some Advantage; and certainly the way to gather Fruit to last, is to get it in before it is gone.

19 Fruit gathered too timelie, will tast of the wood,
will shrink and be bitter, and sildome proue good :
So fruit that is shaken, or beat off a tree,
with brusing in falling, soon faultie will be.

He might have added, if Fruit stand too long it will be mealy, which is worse than shrively; for now most Gentlemen chuse the shriveled Apple.

20 Now burn vp thy bees, that thou mindest to driue,
at midsummer driue them, and saue them aliue :
Place hiue in good aier, set southly and warm,
and take in due season, waxe, honie, and swarme.

What are taken at this Time of the Year, must be killed; the best Way is to suffocate them with Brimstone; and what are drove at *Midsummer*, seldom live over the Winter; so that the Cruelty used towards them is much alike. There have been many ingenious Ways contrived to save the Life of this Creature, and I should be glad to hear of any that turn to Account, what do not are the same as if the Farmer should keep his Ox and his Sheep beyond their Prime, and lose the Profit of their Flesh, for the Labour of the one and the Wooll of the other.

21 Set hiue on a planke, (not too low by the ground)
where herb with the flower, may compasse it round:
And bords to defend it, from north and northeast,
from showers and rubbish, from vermin and beast.

That

That is, it must stand above the Grasse and Weeds, for the natural Defect of this Creature is Short-sightedness, and when they come Home loaden, whatever is above the Stool incumbereth them, and if they pitch amongst thick Grasse, they are not able to rise again.

22 At Michelmas safelie, go stie vp the bore,
least straying abroad, ye do see him no more:
The sooner the better, for Hallontide rue,
and better he brawneth, if hard he do lie.

There is now very little Feed for him in the Fields, and if he get into the Woods, he will follow the first Sow he finds with Brim; and being entertain'd every where, if he but out of Knowledge, you may have him a good Way to seek. Hard and cool lying makes him rub stoutly, which increases his Shield; (as the Skin of the Shoulder is called.)

23 Shift bore for ill aire, as best ye do think,
and twice a day giue him fresh water to drink:
And diligent Cisley, my good dairy wench,
make clenly his caben, for measling and stench.

Measles in a Hog are little round Globules that lie amongst the Muscles; they are known to be occasion'd through Want of Water, perhaps the Chyle thereby is too thick, and unapt to be turn'd into pure Blood.

24 Now pluck vp thy hemp, and go beat out the seed,
and afterward water it, as ye have need:
But not in the riuer, where cattel should drink,
for poisoning of them, and the people with stink.

The retting of Hemp is commonly done in standing Plashes, or small Pools, on Commons near Roads, &c. and must be watched, and taken out as soon as it begins to swim. It leaves a lothsome Smell in the Water.

25 Hemp huswiuely used, lookes cleerely and bright,
and selleth it self, by the colour so white:
Some vseth to water it, but some do it not,
be skilful in doing, for fear it do rot.

There

There is a Water-retting and a Dew-retting, which last is done on a good Rawing, or after Math of a Meadow Water. Retting is accounted the finest, as indeed it is; but, as before, it must be well watch'd for 6 Hours, too long shall considerably damage it, but 24 shall spoil or rot it.

26 Wife into the garden, and set me a plot,
with strawberry roots, of the best to be got :
Such growing abroad, among thornes in the wood,
well chosen and pricked, proue excellent good.

27 The barbery, respis, and goosebery to,
looke now to be planted, as other things do :
The goosebery, respis, and roses al three,
with strawberries vnder them, trimly agree.

I have recommended a Garden with this Author all along to our Farmer, than which nothing can be more pleasant, innocent and profitable; but with our Author also, that it be furnish'd with things useful.

28 To gather some mast, it shall stand thee upon,
with seruant and children, yer mast be all gon :
Some left among bushes, shal pleasure thy swine,
for fear of a mischeef, keep acorns fro kine.

Mast of Beach and Acorns sow'd upon the Grass in gall'd Places, or in Bushes, are diligently sought after by Swine, who by rooting up the Ground, give those they leave behind the better Opportunity to fasten. Acorns are bad for Cows, because, I suppose, the Acorn slipping into the Stomach unbroken, swells there, and will not come up to the Cud again; hence their straining as it were to vomit, and drawing her Limbs together.

29 For rooting of pasture, ring hog ye had need,
which being well ringled, the better doth feed :
Though yong with their elders, wil lightly keep best,
yet spare not to ringle, both young and the rest.

If you let him go unring'd in the Woods, ring him before when he goes in your Meadow or Pasture; for he will be plough-

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ploughing for ground Nuts, to the great Damage of your Ground, and no great profit to himself.

30 Yokefeldome thy swine, while shack time doth last,
for diuers misfortunes, that happen too fast :
Or if ye do fanſie, whole eare of the hog,
give eare to ill neighbor, and eare to his dog.

Shake time is after Harveſt, when may Cattle go in the Field.

31 Keepe hog I aduiſe thee, from medow and corne,
for out aloud crying, that ere he was borne :
Such lawles ſo haunting, both often and long,
if dog let him chaunting, he doth thee no wrong.

32 Where loue among neighbors, doth bear any ſtroke,
while ſhacktime indureth, men uſe not to yoke :
Yet ſurely ringing, is needful and good,
till froſt do inuite them, to brake in the wood.

I never knew a Hog feed on Fern or Brakes, but a Horſe I have known eat young Brakes in *June* : If he means their Roots, a Froſt is the worſt time to get at them ; and I think there is little Nouriſhment in them at this Time of the Year. What is moſt worthy Obſervation in this Stanza, is, that it was then the Cuſtom to let their Hogs go into the Wood unring'd, where if they get no good, they do good.

33 Get home with thy brakes, yer ſummer be gon,
for teddered cattle, to ſit thereupon :
To couer thy houel, to brew and to bake,
to lie in the bottome, where houel ye make.

Brakes is a great Part of their Firing in *Norfolk*, and in many Places they erect large Stacks of Brakes in their Marſhes and bleak-Grounds, that the Cattle may ſhelter themſelves behind them in Stormy Weather. They are very good to fence their Yards, where they night their Beaſts, and if they have enough, and Scarcity of Straw, they will ſerve very well to litter a Yard with.

34 Now ſaw out thy timber, for boord and for pale,
to haue it vnſhaken, and ready for ſale :

Be-

Bestow it and stick it, and laie it aright,
to haue it in March, to be ready in plight.

Shaken Timber is such as is full of Clefts, which unless the Sap be suck'd out, (as it may be by sinking it in the Water) large Timber is very subject unto, therefore the sooner saw'd the better; for when saw'd, and in smaller Quantities, it is not so apt, altho' not altogether free from it. Bestowing and Stick-ing is laying the Boards handsomely one upon another with Sticks between.

35 Saue flap of thy timber, for stable and stie,
for horse and for hog, more clenly to lie.

Saue sawdust and brickdust, and ashes so fine,
for allie to walk in, with neighbor of thine.

A Slab is the outermost piece the Sawyer cuts off of a Piece of Timber. Saw-dust, Brick-dust, and Ashes, may make an indifferent Garden-Walk for ought I know, since in *Holland* I have seen pretty handsome ones made of Tanners Ouse.

36 Keep safely and warely, thine uttermost fense,
with ope gay and break hedge, do seldome dispense,
Such runabout prowlers, by night and by day,
see punished justly, for prowling away.

37 At noone if it bloweth, at night if it shine,
outtrudgeth Hew make shift, with hook and with line:
Whiles Gillet his blouse, is a milking thy cow,
fir Hew is a rigging, thy gate or thy plow.

The Hook and Line is a Cord with a Hook at the End, to bind up any thing with, as Wood, Hay, &c.

38 Such walk with a black, or a little red cur,
that open will quickly, if any thing stir:
Then squatteth the master, or trudgeth away,
and after dog renneth, as fast as ye may.

39 Some prowleth for fewel, and some away rig,
fat goose and the capon, duck, hen and the pig:

S

Some

Some prowleth for acorns, to fat vp their swine,
for corne and for apples, and al that is thine.

So that there was a Race of Thieves in those Days it seems,
as well as now; but a due Execution of the Laws without Fa-
vour in the smallest Offences, I think with our Author to be
the best Means to prevent the greater.



OCTOBER.

OCTOBER.

NOW lay up thy barlie land, dry as ye can,
 when euer ye sow it, so looke for it than:
 Get daily aforehand, be neuer behind,
 least winter preuenting, do alter thy mind.

Laying up, here signifies the first Plowing, for Barley it is often plow'd, so as that a Ridge-Balk in the middle, is cover'd by two opposite Furrows. This is down to rot Weeds, mellow the Earth, and to give the Water a Fall from it. This he advises to be timely done, and that the Farmer be beforehand with his Ground; but as in all things there is a Mean, he advises his Farmer not to be too soon, for,

2 Who laieth vp fallow, too soone or too wet,
 with noiances many, both harlie beset:
 For weed and the water, so soketh and sucks,
 that goodnes from either, it utterlie plucks.

By Fallow, is understood a Winter-Fallow, or bringing Ground to a Barley Season, (as the Country Men term it.) Now if this plowing be too soon, as while the Seeds are flying, it will be the fuller of Weeds; and if too wet, the old Roots will recover themselves, and again lay hold of the Ground: Also Water running off from a new turn'd up Ground, carries with it much of its Fat and Goodness.

3 Green rie in September, when timely thou hast,
 October for wheatfowing, calleth as fast:
 If weather will suffer this counsel I giue,
 leaue sowing of wheat, before Hallomas eue.

Rye is sown on lighter Land than Wheat, and therefore is commonly sow'd before the Rains. When Wheat-land will not plough, which if it will not do so as to get your

Seed into the Ground before *Hallowmas*, or *All Saints*, it is best to let it go till the Spring for somewhat else, for the Frosts will be with it before it can get out of the Milk.

- 4 Where wheat vpon edish, ye mind to bestow,
let that be the first, of the wheat ye do sowe :
He seemeth to hart it, and comfort to bring,
that giueth it comfort of Michelmas spring.

An Eddish, is where Corn hath grown the Year before. This is suppos'd to have weaken'd the Ground, and therefore it is proper to give it a little Hold of the Ground while the Season continues yet mild, that so it may be the better able to struggle with the Rigours of the ensuing Winter.

- 5 White wheat upon pease etch, both grow as he would,
but fallow is best, if we did as we should :
Yet where, how, and when, ye intend to begin,
let euer the finest, be first sowed in.

The Eddish in the foregoing *Stanza*, we may suppose was mean of what Pease or Beans had grown upon, for Wheat very often follows them; and as they are both Destroyers of Weeds, their Eddishes or Etches are very proper for it. The Pease commonly come off first, and therefore most proper; for white Wheat which is tenderer and sooner ripe than our red Wheat, Mr. *Mortimer*, p. 100 says, that in *Hertfordshire* they sometimes sow Wheat upon an Etch after Barley.

- 6 Who soweth in rain, ye shal reap it with tears,
who soweth in harms, he is euer in fears :
Who soweth ill seed, or defraudeth his land,
hath eie fore abroad, with a corsie at hand.

These are the three converse Ways of Sowing; for whosoever sows in Rain or over-wet Weather, shall have his Seed burst before it will sprout. He that soweth in Harmes or harm's way, whether of Roads, ill Neighbours, Torrents of Water, Conies, or other Vermin, can never be easy, he may lose his Crop when ready for the Barn, more likely than when in the Blade. Who soeth ill Seed, defraudeth both himself of what he ought to make, and his Land of what it would bring forth; he hath both

both the Vexation of seeing his Labour come to nothing, and finding himself mock'd and pointed at in the Market.

- 7 Seed husbandlie sown, water furrow thy ground,
that raine when it cometh, may run away round :
Then stir about Nichol, with arrow and bow,
take peny for killing, of euery crow.

Of Water Furrows has been spoken before, they are commonly drawn cross the Ridges in the lowest part of the Ground, so that they receive the Water from the Furrows, and convey it into some Ditch, Drain or Put; which last may be made with Success enough, where no better Conveniency is to be had, by digging past the Clay, if any, to a soft Sand, or the beginning of the Chalk-Stone, or any other Fossil capable of Clefts, through which the Water will drain. Of the Use of the Bow for Children, has somewhat been said before also, only here may be added, that in our Author's time the Gun was known, altho' not in so general Use as at present, and not as yet thought fit to be trusted into such Hands. The Question is, whether it were not better to re-assume the Bow, and let the Children have again the Pleasure and Profit of doing somewhat useful, than either to trust them with the mischievous Instrument which very often burns Houses, &c. sometimes destroys themselves, or else entirely to give them up to their School and frivolous Sports? Physicians have long since observed, nothing is more healthful than the Use of it, as opening the Breast, clearing the Lungs, &c.

A Digression to the Usage of divers Countries concerning Tillage.

- 8 Each soil hath no liking, of euery grain,
nor barlie and wheat, is for euery vain :
Yet know I no countrie, so barren of soil,
but some kind of corn, may be gotten with toil.

Cultivating Land, and Educating Children, is that which makes them fit for something; and again, where the best Land is neglected, it comes to very little or nothing, as some Travellers affirm of, that formerly fertile Land about Rome, which for want of due Management has render'd even the Air unwholesome.

And altho' we have no need of complaining for want of Cultivation in this our Land, especially the more Southern Part
of

of it, yet it must be own'd, that there are still Improvements to be made; and it is great pity that a great many are so wedded to their Old Customs, as to reject Experiments, especially those which may be made with very little Cost. This is a Fault more peculiar to the *English* Nation, than any other that I know of; and of antient standing, at least as ancient as our Author, for

9 In Brantham, where rie, but no barley did grow,
good barly I had, as many did know:
Fiue seam of an aker, I truly was paid,
for thirty lode muck, or each aker so laid.

This no doubt met with Laughter and Discouragement, until Experience shew'd who was in the Right, as it has done in many other things, as Turnips, &c. since. And here I cannot but applaud Gentlemens taking some Part of their Estates into their own Hands, it is to them we owe the greatest Part, if not all our Improvements; for he that will venture out of the Common Road, ought to be well hors'd, and above the Bespatterings of Envious People, at least to have a Purse and publick Spirit to carry him through, for a very little Disappointment is enough to disparage a whole Undertaking. Of this we find our Author (who, what he wanted in Purse, made up in Spirit,) so sensible, that least his Design should fail, he claps Thirty Load of Muck upon his Summer Fallow he design'd for Barley; whereas upon a light Hazle Mould, Fifteen of good Horse-Dung would have done better, as we find by daily Experience.

10 In Suffolke again, where as wheat neuer grew,
good husbandry used, good wheatland I knew:
This prouerbe, experience long ago gaue,
that nothing who practiseth, nothing shall haue.

There are now in use besides Folding, Horse-Dung, Cow-dung, Marle and Burn-beating, which were known in our Author's time, Street-Earth, Mud, Chalk, Soot, Soap and Potash-Lees, Pigeons-Dung, Malt-Cummings, Lime, Sea-Coal Ashes, Raggs of divers sorts, Shavings and Shreds of Leather, Clippings of Coney-Skins, particularly the Ears; &c. Horn Shavings of divers Sorts, Hoofs, Sheep's Trotters, blew Clay, Urry, Sea-weed, Sea-sand, &c. All which are good in their Kinds, but require Skill and Experience in the Choice and Use of them, wherein must be consider'd the Nature
of

of the Ground, and computed the Cost, which must by no Means exceed the Profit. Now altho' this last Caution may seem superfluous, as being an undoubted Axiom, yet I am so bold as to say, this is that upon which all Projects split, and therefore may very well be here remembred, especially since there goes more to such a Computation than is generally thought upon. For Example, suppose I improve Land worth a Groat an Acre to be worth Five Shillings an Acre, with very little Cost, and at the same time neglect or rob Land worth Ten Shillings an Acre, I shall run back in the latter much more than I can get in the former; or which is the same thing, if I lay out that Dung, Folding, or Time, on two Crops, which in another Place will afford me Five. Again, if I fold more than my Sheep are able to bear, or if I keep more Sheep than I can Winter, I shall lose more by my Flock than I shall get by my Land. And here naturally enough comes in a common Error in Folding, very well observed by the Ingenious Mr. Atwell, namely, of folding a Flock by the Hurdle, or always with the same Quantity of Hurdles. For suppose a square Fold contains 10 Hurdles on each side, or 60 Feet, herein may be folded 900 Sheep, at 4 square Feet to a Sheep, (which altho' two little Room will serve for Explanation,) as containing 3600 Feet. But if this Fold is removed into the Common Field, where the Ground lies in Acres and half Acres, and I am limited to a Breadth, as suppose five Hurdles or 30 Feet, then the Length will be 15 Hurdles or 90 Feet, and the Content of the enclosed Ground no more than 2700, and each Sheep has no more than 3 square Feet, this being less than the other by 900 Feet, or 225 Sheep in their former Space. The Want of due Care in this Point, over-hurts and over-cools the Sheep, and is the Occasion of Surfeits, which commonly end in a Rot or Murrain. But to return to our Subject, as such a Computation ought to be, it ought to be in Generosity, not in Covetousness and Greediness, that is, we ought at first to be contented with a small Gain and Probability of Improvement.

- 11 As gravel and sand, is for rie and for wheat,
 or yeeldeth hir burthen, to tone the more great:
 So peason and barlie, delight not in sand,
 but rather in claie, or in rottener land.

Gravel and Sand are still for Rye, not Wheat, and Pease will do tolerably well upon a stiff Land, provided they are sown with a pretty broad Cast, but they delight most in a light Land
 that

that is somewhat rich. But Barley is well known to delight in a light dry Ground, such as is the black rich Mould, and will grow tolerably well in Rye-lands, provided they are in heart, to which, Turnips now a days do very much contribute; so that our Author's Clay is not so proper as his rotten Land. However, if Clay be not too stiff, and brought to a good Season, as the Husbandmen term it, *viz.* not too cloddy, it will make pretty good Shift, but in some Years it is very apt to be Water-bound and Steely. It may not be improper here to add what Sorts of Dung are proper for the divers Sorts of Land.

Horse-Dung or Street-Muck, Lime and Chalk, are proper for stiff hungry Clays, or those commonly called cold Clays, for they mellow, fatten, and lighten them.

Marle is excellent for a light shallow Mould or sheer Ground, as Husbandmen call that Ground that loseth its Dung, one reason thereof is, because if laid pretty thick, and turn'd in pretty deep with the Plough, it forms a Pan of Marle under the Soil that retains the Moisture, and the other is it that fattens and alters the Soil.

Pigeons Dung is good upon a cold chalky Soil, and here it must not be sown too thick, for all Dungs except Marle, it is better to dung with them thin, and often, than thick and seldom.

Horn-Shavings do well upon almost any Ground but best on light Ground; the lesser sort for Barley, and the broader for Wheat. The like of Rags, Shreds, Clippings and Trotters, which last is by much the most lasting of this Sort of Mucking.

Malt Comings is good on light Land for a single Crop; some advise it for Meadow, as also the Water of a Malt-steep, Sink or Cheese Press, in which it may be soak'd to a Consistence, and gently spread on the Ground. Soot is well known to kill Rushes, and help cold Meadows, but

12 Wheat sometime is steely, al burnt as it grows,
for pride or for potertie, practise so knows:
Too lusty of Courage, for wheat doth not wel,
nor after fir peeler, he loueth to dwel.

Pride and Poverty have here the same Effect, that is of making the Corn lean. Pride or too much Dung (which by no means agrees with Wheat) spends its self all into Straw, and therefore where Ground is lusty, it is best to sow with a plentiful

tiful Hand ; then the Care of her Off-spring will keep down her Vanity. But Poverty is a more dismal Circumstance, and has no Remedy, but enriching her with a Summer Fallow.

- 13 Much wetnes, hog rooting, and land out of hart, makes thistles a number, forthwith to vpstart :
If thistles so growing, proue lusty and long,
it signifieth land to be lusty and strong.

Much Wet, especially soon after Harvest, beat down the Seeds (especially Thistle Seeds that fly in the Air) into the Ground. Hog-rooting opens the Ground to receive them. Thistles delight in dry Ground, out of which they suck a great deal of Moisture, so that they impoverish the Poor ; and it is a Sign that Land is rich that is able to nourish them till they grow lusty and strong.

- 14 As land full of tilth, and in hartie good plight, yeelds blade to a length, and increaseth in might :
So crop vpon crop, vpon whose courage we doubt,
yeelds blade for a brag, but it holdeth not out.

It is an Old Saying, one cannot have ones Cake and eat ones Cake ; for Land requires Rest and Nourishment, as well as other Parts of the Creation.

- 15 The straw and the eare, to haue bignes and length, betokeneth land, to be good and in strength :
If eare be but short, and the straw be but smal,
it signifieth barennes, and barren withal.

- 16 White wheat, or else red, red riuet or white,
far passeth al other, for land that is light :
White pollard or red, that so richly is set,
for land that is heauie, is best ye can get.

- 17 Main wheat that is mixed, with white and with red,
is next to the best in the markets mans hed :
So Turkey or Purkey wheat many do loue,
Because it is flourie, as others above.

18 Gray wheat is the grosest, yet good for the claie.
 though worst for the market, as farmer may say:
 Much like vnto rie, be his properties found,
 coorse flower, much bran, and a peeler of ground.

Here our Author discourseth of the goodnes of the Corn, and first as it standeth on the Ground, namely, that both Straw and Ear haue a proportional Bigness and Length, to which may be added Evenness, namely, that it stand of a like Thicknes and Height, then it is all of a piece, in least danger of lodging, and encourages both Farmer and Reaper. Then of the different sorts of Wheat, of which there are many known at present, besides those he mentions, such as whole Straw Wheat, Red Straw Wheat, Flaxen Wheat, *Lammis* Wheat, *Chiltern* Wheat, *Ograve* Wheat, *Sarrafins* Wheat; however, amongst all these, and those he mentions, the Red and White Pollard are most esteem'd; altho' they agree not with all sorts of stiff Lands, or thrive alike on like Lands in all Places, and therefore it is Pity that more notice is not taken of the several sorts of this Corn, and how and where they thrive best. Main Wheat weighs pretty well, but grey Wheat is, I take it, the worst, and is often ground low, and sold for better than it is at a cheaper Price, to the defrauding of the Poor, and to the Damage of the Market.

19 Otes, rie, or else barlie, and wheat that is gray,
 brings land out of comfort, and soon to decay:
 One after another, no comfort between,
 is crop upon crop, as will quickly be seen.

Of this, enough has been said before.

20 Still crop vpon crop, many farmers do take,
 and reap little profit, for greedinesse sake:
 Tho' breadcorne and drinkcorn, such croppers do stand,
 count peason or brank, as a comfort to land.

The meaning of this I take to be, that notwithstanding most Farmers are only for Wheat, Barley, Beans and Oats, with which they wear out their Land; yet Pease and Brank, or Buck Wheat, may be a good Crop sometimes, to vary the Land and not tire it. Hence it seems, Pease were not so much used in the Field, as at present; however, now they are very
 con-

considerable there, and so is Buck Wheat, which is of excellent Use, as I have mention'd else where, and if plow'd in the Blossom, is almost as good as a dunging. Some propose folding and feeding it on the Ground, but whether good Food for Sheep I leave to the more experienced.

21 Good land that is feveral, crops may haue three, in champion countrey, it may not so be :

Tone taketh his season, as commoners may, the tother with reason, may otherwise say.

Several or enclosed Land may be used according to its strength, which in many Places will hold out three Crops ; but in Common Field Land, (in most places) the Custom is for it all to lie fallow together, and that every third Year, so that the Owner of such Land must do as the rest do.

22 Some vseth at first, a good fallow to make, to sowe thereon barlie, the better to take :

Next that to sow pease, and of that to sow wheat, then fallow again, or lie laie for thy neat.

As to his taking Wheat the third Year after Summer Fallowing, it is now out of use. I am apt to believe, by Fallowing, he means breaking up, but then Pease should have gone before Barley ; however, there is a sort of Barley call'd Sprat Barley, or Battledore-Barley, that will grow very well on lusty Land, but then the Ground must be fine for it, which cannot be suppos'd the first Year, so that if this was the custom then, we have got better Customs since.

23 First rie and then barlie, the champion saies, or wheat before barlie, be champion waies :

But drink before breadcorn, with meddlesex men, then laie on more compas, and fallow agen.

The Champion way at present is most in vogue, but without doubt there may be a Variation according to the divers Circumstances of Places ; for Example, *Middlesex* Men having Dung more plentiful than any Part of *England*, might afford to keep it longer, and give it more Rottenness than other Places, and so might fasten ; and yet not overheat their Ground, so that their first Crop might be a tolerable Crop of Barley, and their next

a good Crop of Wheat. But our Farmers now a Days know better, than either to let their Dung waste in the Heap, or to spoil one Crop to make another.

24 Where barlie ye sowe, after rie or else wheat,
if land be vnlusty, the crop is not great:
So lose ye your cost, to your corsie and smart,
and land over burdened, is clene out of heart.

25 Exceptions take, of the champion land,
from lying along, from that at thy hand:
(Just by) ye may comfort, with compas at will,
far off ye must comfort, with fauor and skill.

Here he advises to be careful, near Home, of the enclosed Land, that it be not quite worn out of Heart, but in Time Summer-fallow'd and muck'd; but for Common Fieldland, and what lies remote, he looks upon it as no great Matter how near it be worn; however, he recommends the comforting it with Favour and Skill. By Favour may be understood laying it down; but what his Skill was, he has left unfolded, for I took it in those Days there was nothing for it but folding: Perhaps there might be some other ways, which were Secrets; such as sowing Tares, or Brank, and Ploughing them in, using Rags, &c. I am sure we have a ready Remedy at hand at Present, were it not for Spite, which is by Turniping them, and feeding Sheep or Neat Cattle upon them, by making a Fold of Hurdles; but this the Owner of the Sheep Walk commonly eats up before it can come to any Maturity.

26 Where rie or else wheat, either barlie ye sow,
let codware be next, thereupon for to grow:
Thus hauing two crops, whereof codware is ton,
thou hast the lesse need, to lay cost thereupon.

Codware, such as Beans and Pease, are observed to be no great Peelers of Ground; Beans delight in a stiff Land, and Pease in a lighter Mould; of which before.

27 Some far fro the market, delight not in pease,
for that erie chapman, they seem not to please:

If

If vent of the market place, serue thee not wel,
set hogs vp a fattening, to drouer to sell.

The Case is very much altered, for they are as much crav'd as any other Commodity, and the Husbandman may make much more of them in Money, than in Hogs-flesh. One Reason is (I believe) because there are not near so Plenty of Acorns as formerly, with which the Poor Man used to fat his Hog; and altho' his Hog already stands him in more than he is worth, he must not lose the Feasting and Joy, this Creature is like to afford him and his Household, for fear of a little farther Loss: However, hitherto what his Hog has cost him, has gone away insensibly, and will do him more good in Pork, or Bacon, than if it had been in Ale.

28 Two crops of a fallow, enricheth the plough,
though tone be of pease, it is land good inough:
One crop and a fallow, some soil will abide,
where if ye go further, laie profit aside.

Two Crops of a Fallow is pretty well, but I think one Crop and a Fallow but very poor Doings; however, it is better to bestow Labour on the Ground, then to lose it in the Crop: Now between a good Crop and a bad one, there is little Difference in the Ploughing, Seed and Inning; but there is a vast deal in what they make at the Market; and the Labour of Fallowing is better laid out at Home, than lost at the Market. Here it is again observable, that Pease were look'd upon but as an indifferent Crop.

29 Where peason ye had, and fallow thereon,
some wheat ye may well, without doong thereupon:
New broken vp land, or with water opprest,
or ouermuch dunged, for wheat is not best.

Pease are no Impoverishers, but rather Improvers of Ground, so that if you have a Fallow after a good Crop of Pease, he supposes the Ground still in Heart enough to bear a Crop of Wheat; for too much Dung, or too much Water, are bad for Wheat; we have observed elsewhere.

30 Where water all winter, annoieth too much,
bestow not thy wheat vpon land that is such:
But rather sow otes, or else bullimong thare,
gray peason or runciuals, fitches or tare.

Because

Because these are sown in the Spring, when the Water is going or gone off; and besides, these are not so apt to burst as Wheat. Bullimong has been elsewhere explain'd; it is a Mixture of Oats, Pease and Vetches.

31 Sow acorns ye owners, that timber do loue,
 sow hawe and rie with them, the better to proue:
 If cattel or conie, may enter to crop,
 yong Oke is in danger, of loosing his top.

This is for the raising a Wood, which will verywell bear with a Crop of Rye, taken off the first Year; for both Acorns and Haws, being very slow in coming up, will not be very far above Ground at Haruest; but then they must be well fenced from Cattle and Cony, the first two Years after, as also very clean weeded, after which they will require little tending, except the Fences.

32 Who pescods delighteth, to haue with the furst,
 if now ye do sow them, I think it not wurst:
 The greener the peason, and warmer thy room,
 more lstuie the laier, more plenty they come.

The *Reading* and *Hasting*, are best sown at this time of the Year, which if they take good Root before the cold Weather comes, with some Care and Favour of the Weather, may live until the Spring; but they have a great many Hazards to run from Black Frosts, &c.

33 Go plow vp or delue vp, aduised with skill,
 the bredth of a ridge, and in length as ye will:
 Where speedie quickset, for a fense ye will draw,
 to sow in the feed, of the bremble and haw.

Some advise the twisting the Seeds in a Hay-band, and so burying them shallowly in Rows. Be it how it will, they must be fenced in, and then it will be found that a new Bank with Quicksets, is as cheap. Of the raising of Haws and Sloes, I spake before, and I believe the Bramble may be rais'd the same Way; namely, by burying the ripe Berries during the Winter until their Seeds chitt, and then sowing them. I am also of Opinion, that a Bramble may be planted with good Advantage, as Vines in a Vineyard, and with good pruning and ordering, may be brought to ripen altogether; which if once they are, they will be of Excellent Use.

34 Though

- 34 Though plenty of acorns, the porkling to fat,
not taken in season, may perish by that :
If ratling or swelling, get once in the throat,
thou losest thy porkling a crown to a groat.

If fed under the Tree whilst green, and in moist Weather,
or if fed with any thing that is too cold and moist, as Gardening
Pease that have taken Wet, &c. Hogs are very apt to swell
under the Throat to a prodigious Bigness, which if not taken
Care of in Time, choaks them. The best Remedy is giving
them their Wash hot, and if ripe, cut open the Swelling, and
the Matter will spurt out a great Way. This I have known
done with Success, but I take it the best Way, is to pierce it an
Inch or more deep with a red hot Iron.

- 35 Whateuer thing fat is, again if it fall,
thou ventereest the thing, and the fatnes withal :
The fatter the better, to sell or to kill,
but not to continue, make proof if ye will.

This is a plain Matter of Fact in all Edibles.

- 36 What euer thing dieth, go bury or burn,
for tainting of ground, or a worser ill turn :
Such pestilent smell, of a carrenlie thing,
to cattle and people, great peril may bring.

On the contrary, it is a horrid thing for Farmers and others,
to sell that which dies of its self to poor hungry Wretches, who
as greedily eat it, and suck in the Venom, which is very fre-
quently done.

- 37 Thy measeled bacon, hog, sow, or thy bore,
shut vp for to heal, from infecting thy store :
Or kill it for bacon, or souse it to sell,
For Flemming that loues it so daintily well.

Whether meassed Bacon be infectious or not, I cannot tell ;
it commonly happens from the Hogs Want of Water, however,
if the *Flemming* delights in it, and buys it knowing it to be
such, it is Pity to eat any from him.

38 With strawisp, and peasebolt, with fern & the brake,
for sparing of fewel, some brew and do bake:
And heateth their copper, for seething of grains.
good seruant rewarded, refuseth no pains.

This is what is call'd Light-Fire in *Norfolk*, and serves excellently well for those Uses. Seething of Grains is no bad Husbandry, especially at this Time of the Year; for altho' little is got our of them, the Heat is very comfortable to the Hog.

39 Good breadcorn and drinkeorn, full xx weeks
is better than new, that at haruest is rept: [kept,
But foistie the breadcorn, and bowdeaten malt,
for health or for profit, find noisome thou shalt.

By Sweating in the Mow it has contracted a Thirst, which by the Air is cooled, and the Spaces plumped, so that the Flower separates much better from the Bran when ground.

40 By the end of October, go gether vp floes,
haue thou in a readines, plentie of those:
And keep them in bedstraw, or stil on the bow,
to stay both the flix, of thy self and the cow.

They are best bak'd gently in an Oven.

41 Seeth water, and plump therein plentie of floes,
mix chalk that is dried, in powder with those:
Which so if ye giue, with the water and chalk,
thou makest the lax, fro thy cow away walk.

42 Be sure of verges (a gallon at least)
so good for the kitchen, so needful for best:
It helpeth thy cattle, so feeble and faint,
if timely such cattle, with it thou acquaint.

This Medicine retains its Credit to this Day, and it is much to be admir'd that we should give so great a Price for Lemons and Limes from abroad, and despise the Crab, of which Verjuice is made an Acid no less Pleasant, and more Improvable, than what comes from any of them, only because we have Plenty of them at Home.

NOVEMBER.

AT Hallontide flautertime entereth in,
and then doth the husbandmans feasting begin:
From thence vnto shroftide, kill now and
then some,
their off all for household, the better will come.

In some Countries they kill Pork all the Year long, (as at the *Bath*, &c.) with Success enough. However, this Time of the Year affords Off-Corn to keep up what they got in Harvest, and Beans and Pease are now most plentiful; the Season of the Year also, by Reason of its Coolness, is most proper for Fattening.

2 Thy dredge and thy barlie, go thresh out to malt,
let malster be cunning, else lose it thou shalt:
The increase of a seame, is a bushel for store,
bad else is the barlie, or huswife much more.

Dredge is a Mixture of Oates and Barley, and at present used very seldom in Malting, as not working kindly together, especially when they are to be wrought for Increase of a Bushel in a Seam or Quarter, as our Author here intimates.

3 Some vseth to winnow, some vseth to fan,
some vseth to cast it, as cleane as they can:
For seed go and cast it, for malting not so,
but get out the cockle, and then let it go.

This is meant of cleaning of Barley, which for malting need not be so clean as for Seed; for the light Corn may be skim'd off at the Cistern, and if the Cockle be left in, it will work, and some say, make the Drink the stronger; but whatever Ease this may be to the Farmer, the Maltman, if he be wise, will make him pay for in the Price of his Commodity.

- 4 Thresh barley as yet, but as need shal require,
fresh threshed for stouer, thy cattel desire:
And therefore that threshing, forbear as ye may,
til Candlemas comming, for sparing of hay.

Stouer is Food, and in Winter dry and lean Cattle will make very good shift with Barley or Oat-straw. It is best to feed them from the Thresher, both, because it is then most juicy, and to avoid pestring the Barn.

- 5 Such wheat as ye keep, for the baker to bie,
vnthreshed til March, in the Sheafe let it lie:
Least foistines take it, if sooner ye thresh it,
although by oft turning, yee seeme to refresh it.

There are many Ways mention'd by ingenious Authors to preserve Wheat in Granaries, as mixing Beans amongst it, Pipes to go through it with Air-holes, the running it through Holes like Sand in an Hour-Glass, from one Floor to another. But all (if practicable) come short of keeping it in the Sheaf, from whence it goes to Market in its true Beauty. Next to the Sheaf is the Shovel, namely, by frequent turning, and thus it is preserv'd in *Holland* and *Dantzick*, notwithstanding the Moistness of the Air.

- 6 Saue chaffe of the barley, of wheat and of rie,
from fethers and foistines, where it doth lie:
Which mixed with corne, being sifted of dust,
to giue to thy cattel, when serue them ye must.

Feathers are very noisom in the Food of Cattle, especially Horses, who chew all down. To prevent Fustiness, the best Way is to eat it off as new as you can, for Chaff is very apt to attract Moisture, and Moisture is the Occasion of Mouldiness or Fustiness.

- 7 Greene peason or hastings, at Hallontide sow,
in harty good soile, he requireth to grow:
Gray peason or runcuals, cheerely to stand,
at Candlemas sow, with a plentiful hand.

A good Crop of Pease to be sold in the Shell, is worth any Man's looking after; and if they are sown now, unless a
black

black Frost come, they are like to be early. If they are nipt, it is worth while to sow them again, or drill where there is wanting, for a Peck in the Shell is seldom more than a Quart, which at 4*d.* the Peck comes to 16*d.* the Bushel; and the Hawm of Foreward gather'd Pease, is little worse than Hay; besides there is Time to have a good Crop of Turneps the same Year.

8 Leave latewardly rearing, keep now no more swine, but such as thou maist, with the offall of thine:

Except ye haue wherewith, to fat them away, the fewer thou keepest, keep better thou may.

9 To rear vp much pultrie, and want the barn doore, is naught for the pulter, and worse for the poore:

So now to keepe hogs, and to startue them for meat, is as to keep dogs, to baule in the street.

This is all very plain, and generally understood, and of which much has been said before; there remains only to consider, what Share the Poor have in the Farmer's Poultry, which I suppose, was no other, than that the Thresher and other Day's-Men had the running of a Pig or two in the Farmer's Yard, which if the Farmer was overstock'd himself, it is likely they could no longer have. This, as well as many other Parts of the Old *English* Hospitality, is very much disused, and perhaps not without very good Reason.

10 As cat a good mouser, is needful in house, because for hir commons she killeth the mouse:

So rauening currs, as a meany do keep, makes maister want meat, and his dog to kill sheepe.

This we see daily verified, namely, poor Wretches that cannot maintain their Families, must have their Dog or two after them, though they know they are maintain'd to the Prejudice of their Betters. It springs from a Sort of beggarly Pride, or Desire to live at the Publick Charge, and I think a Man ought to be call'd as much to account how his Dog lives, as how he lives himself.

11 For Easter at Martilmas, hang vp a beefe, for stall fed and pease fed, play pickpurse the theefe:

With that and the like, yer graffe beef come in, thy folke shall looke cheerely, when others look thin.

Smoak dry'd Meat was in much more Request formerly than it is now a Days. It is true, Smoak gives a Firmness and Durableness which makes it fit for Exportation, &c. as well as Gratefulness of Taste; but then it is hard of Digestion, and liable to much Waste, and therefore justly left off in many Places, and Pickle prefer'd to it, which both better preserves the Meat in its natural Taste and Sweetness, and makes it spend with less Waste; it saves Salt also.

12 Set garlike and beanes, at S. Edmund the king, the moone in the wane, thereon hangeth a thing: The increase of a pottle, (well proued of some) shal pleasure thy household, yer pescod time come.

St. Edmund is on the 20th of November, at which time it may be very proper to set Garlick and Beans; but why the Moon in the Wane? I cannot tell, unless it be that he thought in the Wane, the Weather grows warmer and warmer until the New, because the Moon is then continually approaching the Sun.

13 When raine is a let to thy doings abroad, set threshers a threshing, to lay on good lode: Thresh clean ye must bid them, though lesser they yarn, and looking to thriue, haue an eie to thy barne.

That is, the Plough-man, Horse-keeper, &c. who commonly like not this Sort of Work, and if they are not watch'd, will leave more in the Straw than the Work comes to.

14 Take heed to thy man, in his fury and heat, with ploughstaffe and whipstock, for maiming thy neat:

To thresher for hurting of cow with his flaile, or making thy hen, to play tapple vp tail.

That is, be as much with your Servants of all Sorts as possibly you can; for the Eye of the Master makes not only the Horse fat, but his Work good, and the Servant careful.

15 Some pilfering thresher, wil walke with a staffe, will carry home corne, as it is in the chaffe: And some in his bottle of leather so great, will carrie home daily, both barlie and wheat.

This

This of the Bottle, I remember I heard a Farmer say, he once found out, and there are still too many pilfering Rascals of this Sort. But then on the other hand, how can a Farmer expect a poor Man should live upon such small Wages that they now run them down to? I have known when, and where a Thresher could not get his 4 d a Day, and had at the same time a Wife and Children to maintain; if this Fellow had been sent for a Soldier, he had got by it. So that altho' the Law is defective in this Point, yet, methinks, Conscience should dictate to us, that we ought not to desire any Man's Work for less than he can live upon, any more than he should take from us more than he bargain'd for. *got by it with a vengeance.*

16 If houseroom will serue thee, lay stouer up drie, and euerie sort, by it selfe for to lie:
Or stack it for litter, if roome be to poore,
and thatch out the residue, noying the doore.

If there is House-room and a Market near, Straw, especially Wheat and Rye-Straw, may be very well laid up; but if no good Sale for it, after you have sav'd what you think fitting for Thatch, and fodder'd your Cattle, and litter'd your Horses, the rest may lie in the open Yard, for the Cattle to tread into Dung, which is the Practice now a Days, so that our Farmers are not so afraid of noying their Doors, it seems, as formerly, and not without good Reason.

17 Cause weekly thy thresher, to make vp his flower, though slouthful and pilferer, thereat do lower:
Take tub for a season, take sacke for a shift,
yer garner for grain, is the better for thrift.

By which Means you may see if your Corn yields alike.

18 All manner of straw, that is scattered in yard, good husbandly husbands, have daily regard:
In pit ful of water, the same to bestow,
where lying to rot, thereof profit may grow.

It may lie much better, as I said before, up and down the Yard, especially in the lower Parts of it, where the Cattle go, for Straw retains Moisture, and as it becomes rotten and full of Dung, it may be cast up in Heaps and carried away, too much Water weakens it, unless the Water be the Fat of the Yard.

19 Now

19 Now plow vp thy headlond, or delue it with spade,
 where otherwise profit, but little is made :
 And cast it vp high, vpon hillocks to stand,
 that winter may rot it, to compasse thy land.

By Head-lond, I take it, here is meant such Ground in Common Field-land, which the whole Shot, or Parcel of Land belonging to many Men against which it lies, turn upon. This cannot be sown until all the rest have done, and perhaps in our Author's Time, was seldom sown at all ; and it is its new breaking up which he alludes unto, when he advises to cast it up in Hillocks to rot, meaning the Grasse-sward.

20 If garden require it, now trench it ye may,
 one trench not a yard, from another go laie :
 Which being wel filled, with muck by and by,
 go couer with mould for a season to lie.

Garden Trenching is excellent good for Carrots and Parsnips, and indeed for any thing ; it is the best Way of Mucking.

21 Foul priuies are now, to be clenfed and side,
 let night be appointed, such baggage to hide :
 Which buried in garden, in trenches alow,
 shal make very many things, better to grow.

Humane Ordure has, for a long time, been thought unfit for Land, as being too fiery ; but this Heat may easily be allay'd with Straw, Fern, Earth, or any Vegetables, to give it a Fermentation, and then it is the greatest Improver of any Dung whatsoever : Mr. *Mortimer*, p. 23. says, it sells in foreign Parts at a much greater Rate than any other Manure.

22 The chimney all sooty, would now be made cleene,
 for fear of mischances, too oftentimes seen :
 Old chimnie and sootie, if fier once take,
 by burning and breaking, soon mischief may make.

Our Author here mentions the Mischiefs arising by Soot, but I believe was ignorant of its Benefits. In short, it is now found to be one of the greatest Improvers of cold Clay-land, whether in Corn or Grasse, that the World affords ; and particularly destroys the Moss in Grasse-lands, for which Disease, it may be justly esteem'd a Specifick.

23 When

- 23 When ploughing is ended, and pasture not great,
then stable thy horses, and tend them with meat:
Let season be drie, when ye take them to house,
for danger of nits, or for fear of a louse.

Trees and Plants, particularly the Gooseberry and Hop, are only lousy in dry Seasons. The Nits which we frequently see upon the Shoulders and Flank of a Horse, are blown by a Sort of a Fly, very like a Bee; which I believe are gone before this Time of the Year, so that I am not clear in our Author's Observation. Poor Horses will be lousy whether the Season be dry or wet.

- 24 Lay compasse vp handsomly, round on a hill,
to walke in thy yard, at thy pleasure and will:
More compasse it maketh, and handsome the plot,
if horse keeper daily forgetteth it not.

Compass is Dung, of which the Yard should often be clean'd, that the more may be made; and whatsoever a Lady may think, a Farmer thinks Heaps of Dung a very good Ornament to his Dwelling.

- 25 Make hillocks of molehills, in field throughout,
and so to remaine, til the yeare go about:
Make also the like, whereas plots be too hie,
al winter a rotting, for compas to lie.

That is, of the Tops or Parings of the Mole-hills, although with as good Success they may (after three or four Spits of Earth are thrown out) be laid down again. They ought, however, to be laid for some time open, that the Wet may destroy the remaining Pismires; however, for the Sake of that industrious Creature, let me add, that altho' they are an Annoyance, and the Farmer may improve his Ground by destroying them, yet where they are in Pasture to be fed, they do least Harm; and the Hills are an excellent Shelter for Lambs unless they stand too thick.

DECEMBER.

WHEN frost will not suffer, to dike and to
hedge,
then get thee a heat with thy beetle and
wedge:

Once Hallomas come, and a fire in the hal,
such sluers do wel, for to lie by the wal.

Frosty Weather is best for the Dung-Cart, but when that
is done, our Countryman may employ his Servants with his
Beetle and Wedges, much better than by letting them hover
over his Fire.

2 Get grindstone and whetstone, for tool that is dul,
or often be letted, and fret bellie ful:

A wheelebarrow also, be ready to haue,
at hand of thy seruant, thy compasse to saue.

A Grindstone is very necessary about a Farm-house: It
keeps the Servants from gadding to the Smith's Shop upon
every small Occasion, which with the Mill, is the Seat of
News.

3 Giue cattel their fodder, in plot drie and warme,
and count them for miring, or other like harme:

Young coltes wirh thy vennels, together go serue,
least lurched by others, they happen to sterue.

This is meant of Foddering in the Pasture Grounds, wherein
Care ought to be taken that too many be not fed together, for
the Old will be apt to hunge or gore the Younger.

4 The racke is commend ed, for sauing of dong,
to set as the old cannot mischiefe the yong:

In tempest (the wind being northly or east)
warme barth vnder hedge, is a succour to beast.

The

The Rack must be so set, as that the Young may reach it, and easily run under it; by which Means they escape the Hungers of the greater Cattle, and at last get a quiet Feeding-place. Shelter from the North and East Winds, is as good to Cattle as half their Food.

- 5 The housing of cattel, while winter doth hold,
is good for al such, as are feeble and old:
It saueth much compas, and manie a sleepe,
and spareth the pasture, for walke of thy sheep.

The Housing of Cows, as frequently used in Hertfordshire, is certainly the best Way, both for Safety and Husbanding their Food; but I think there is little to be got, or saved, by housing other Neat Cattle, unless Stall-fed Oxen for the Butcher.

- 6 For charges so little, much quiet is won,
if strongly and handsomly al things be don:
But vse to vntackle them, once in a daie,
to rub and to licke them, to drink and to play.

By this Stanza it seems as though he recommended the Housing of Weanlings, which perhaps may be worth while (if Cow Calves) for the first Winter, but I do not remember to have seen it practised.

- 7 Get trustie to tend them, not lubberlie squire,
that al the daie long, hath his nose at the fire:
Nor trust vnto children, poore cattel to feed,
but such as be able to help at a need.

It often requires the Strength of a Man to lift up poor Cattle, who sometimes cannot rise when they are laid, especially in Snows and cold Seasons; and therefore I suppose this is meant of Foddering in the Field, as well as feeding in the House, where, without doubt, there may sometimes be Need of Help also. Turnep-feeding, as used in Norfolk, requires a constant Attendance, and also a strong Hand: It is frequent for the Cattle to be almost choak'd by a Piece of a Turnep, lying a cross in their Gullet; to which end, the Tender has a Rope of a pretty large Size always at hand, tufted at one End, this he supples with Butter, and by thrusting it down the Beast's Throat, pushes the Turnep into its Stomach.

8 Serue rie straw out first, then wheatstraw and pease, then otestraw and barlie, then haie if ye please : But serue them with haie, while the straw stouer last, then loue they no straw, they had rather to fast.

Rie Straw is of all Food the poorest, and indeed seldom used to that Purpose; however, our Author's Meaning is, that the worst shall be used first; but then you must begin in very cold Weather.

9 Yokes, forkes, and such other, let bailie spie out, and gather the same, as he walketh about : And after at leasure, let this be his hier, to beath them and trim them, at home by the fier.

The Reason of this is double; namely, not only for the thing, but to shew where he has been, and that he may not pretend to have been in the Woods, when he has been at the Alehouse. Bathing at the Fire, as it is commonly called when the Wood is yet unseasoned, sets it to what Purpose you think fit.

10 As wel at the ful, of the moone as the change, sea rages in winter, be suddenly strange : Then looke to thy marshes, if doubt be to fray, for feare of (*Ne forte*) haue cattel away.

The highest Spring Tides are not only in *March* and *September*, but when the Wind has held for some time, before the Full or Change, against their coming in; and therefore the third Day is commonly the highest Tide; for although the Wind does not always hold against it, yet the Current of the River where it sets in does, which amasses the Waters to a superiour Strength.

11 Both saltfish and lingfish (if any ye haue) through shifting and drying, from rotting to save: Least winter with moistnes, do make it relent, and put it in hazard, before it be spent.

At present this is not so needful an Instruction as formerly, because Farmers either find it not worth their while, or are not willing to keep any Lenten Days. I have spoke of this
in

in former Months, as a very great Neglect of the Blessings of GOD, and therefore I shall say nothing more at present than this, that if we despise the Product of the Sea, a neighbouring Nation knows how to make use of it, to our eternal Shame and Reproach.

12 Broome fagot is best, to drie haberdin on,
laie boord vpon ladder, if faggots be gon :
For breaking (in turning) haue verie good eie,
and blame not the wind, so the weather be drie.

Wind-dry'd is the best Drying of Fish, especially dry cold Winds.

13 Good fruit and good plentie doth wel in the loft,
then make thee an orchard, and cherish it oft :
For plant or for stock, laie aforehand to cast,
but set or remove it, yer Christmas be past.

About *Christmas*, that is when the Sun is in the Winter Solstice, the Sap is thickest ; and consequently the Tree is less sensible of its Remove, being, as it were, asleep.

14 Set one fro another, ful fortie foot wide,
to stand as he stood, is a part of his pride :
More fair, more worthie, of cost to remoue,
more stodie ye set it, more likely to proue.

Some set between every Apple-tree a Cherry-tree, which at twelve Years Growth is cut down, and by that time the Apple-trees are come to their due Spreading. It is very material upon transplanting, to plant exactly in the same Situation, in respect to *East, West, North* and *South*, as it stood before, especially when the Trees have attained to any Grandeur.

15 To teach and vnteach, in a schoole is vnmeet,
to do and vndo, to the purffe is vnsweet :
Then orchard or hopyard, so trimmed with cost,
should not through follie, be spoiled and lost.

That is, when once planted, afterward neglected. There is one thing needful in an Orchard, the want of which is the

Occasion of the most Part of our bad and unfavourly Fruit ; namely, taking Trees upon the Gardiners Words, or because they are of a good Kind in one Place, take it for granted they must be so in all, whereas they will not only thrive so well in one Place as another, but degenerate, and become worse ; and therefore as soon as your Trees begin to bear, if the Fruit please you not, extirpate them, and plant others in their room.

16 Yer Christmas be passed, let horffe be let bloud,
for many a purpose, it dooth them much good :
The day of S. Steven, old fathers did vse,
if that do mislike thee, some other day chuse :

About *Christmas* is a very proper time to bleed Horfes in, for then they are commonly at House, then Spring comes on, the Sun being now coming back from the Winter Solstice, and there are three or four Days of rest, and if it be upon St. *Steven's* Day, it is not the worse, seeing there are with it three Days of Rest, or at least two.

17 Looke wel to thy horfes, in stable thou must,
that haie be not foistie, nor chaffe ful of dust :
Nor stone in their prouender, feather nor clots,
nor fed with green peason, for breeding of bots.

Pease-hawm, or Straw that comes from such Pease as have been gather'd in the Shell, is what is here meant by green Peason, and is apt to gripe Horfes, who will eat it very greedily. The Remedy is scalded Bran.

18 Some horffekeeper lasheth out prouender so,
some Gillian spendal, so often doth go :
For hogs meat, and hens meat, for that and for this,
that corne loft is emptied, yer chapman hath his.

The Mean to be sure is the best : Horfes and all working Cattle ought no more to be pamper'd than under-fed, especially with Corn.

19 Some countries are pinched of medowes for hay,
yet ease it with fitches, as wel as they may :
Which inned and threshed, and husbandly dight,
keepe labouring cattle in very good plight.

Fitches

Fitches or Vetches are of divers Sorts, of which before ; but since our Author's Time, several new Grasses have been found out, which supply the same Defect. Those which are most in Request, at present are, Clove, Ray-grass, Nonesuch and *St. Foin*.

20 In threshing out fitches, one point I wil shew,
first thresh out for seed, of the fitches a few :
Thresh few for the plowhorffe, thresh cleane for thy
cow,
this order in Northfolk good husbands allow.

The best come out first and easiest, and therefore most proper for Seed ; what is left in the Straw does the Horses good ; but neat Cattle, and what chews the Cud, hard Corn is lost upon.

21 If frost do continue, take this for a law,
the strawberries look, to be couered with straw :
Laid ouerlie trim, upon crotches and bowes,
and after vncovered as weather allowes.

22 The gilleflower also, the skilful do know,
doth look to-be couered, in frost and in snow :
The knot and the border, and rosemary gay,
do craue the like summer, for dying away.

It is very comely, and looks like delighting in Home, when a Garden is well look'd after at a Farm-house ; not with fine Walks and Winter-greens, but Things useful.

23 Go look to thy bees, if the hiue be too light,
set water and honey, with rosemary dight,
Which set in an dish, ful of sticks as the hiue,
from danger of famine, ye saue them aliue.

Or ye may spread a little Honey on a Board, which I take to be much better. It is true, some Years this may not be amiss, especially about this Month ; but if the Fault be in the Weakness of the Stock, not in the Wetness of the past Summer, they are not worth feeding.

24 In meadow or pasture (to grow the more fine)
 let campers be camping, in any of thine :
 Which if ye do suffer, when low is the spring,
 you gaine to your self, a commodious thing.

Camping is Foot-ball-playing, at which they are very dextrous in *Norfolk* ; and so many People running up and down a Piece of Ground, without doubt evens and saddens it, so that the Root of the Grasse lies firm ; altho' at the same time the Horsemen do it not much good, especially if it be somewhat low and moist. The trampling of so many People drive also the Mole away.

Herewith is concluded our Author's Twelve Months of Husbandry, which if it hath not profited, may at least have diverted the Reader ; and if the Annotator's Performance is mean, the Design is innocent, which, by the by, is more than any Weekly or Monthly Papers can say for themselves ; and therefore takes Leave in these Words of our Author at the End of his Life.

Friend all thing waid, that here is said,
 And being got, that paies the shot,
 Methink of right, haue leaue I might,
 (Death draweth neere :)
 To seeke some waies, my God to praies,
 And mercie craue, in time to haue,
 And for the rest, what he thinks best,
 to suffer heere.

F I N I S.